

The Staff of Merkinch Community Centre are all employed or contracted in different ways.

Highlife Highland provide a small staff team to support the work of the Centre and a Facilities Manager oversees the staff.

Ian MacLennan - Caretaker
Anna Kula - Part time Steward
Karen Halkett - Clerical Receptionist

Cleaning from Highland Contract Services

The Trustees of the Charity also contract with Staff to provide various services:

♦ **Elsie Normington**
 Development Officer

♦ **Karen Halkett**
 Lunch Club
 Co-ordinator &
 Superart Tutor

♦ Several Freelance
 Tutors for classes



Merkinch Community Centre

Coronation Park

Inverness

IV3 8AD

Tel: 01463 239563

www.merkinchcommunitycentre.co.uk

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people
matter!



Scottish Charity SCIO 000706
www.merkinchcommunitycentre.co.uk



Merkinch Community Centre

The Merkinch Community Centre opened its doors 40 years ago and has been providing a very valuable service to the community over these decades. Society changes and evolves down through the years but the principle has remained the same; we give a warm welcome to all people from all backgrounds and seek to provide the services and resources which are asked for by the people.

The centre has seen many changes in the physical environment and also in the groups and classes, however we are proud to say that over 60,000 visits are recorded during the year - that's a lot of people!

Grateful thanks to the Centre Trustees and the various funders who have supported our centre.

Merkinch Community Centre is the 'place to be'



**MERKINCH
COMMUNITY CENTRE**
 CORONATION PARK | INVERNESS | IV3 8AD

Newsletter



MCC has 60,236 visits in 2017/18

Merkinch Community Centre hit the highest numbers for people visiting our centre in one year. Karen Halkett, Centre Administrator collates all the statistics from our groups and events throughout the year. This has resulted in an amazing record number since the centre began.

The Team who run the centre make all of this happen with a small core staff and a large number of volunteers who help to make all of this possible.

Do you want to hire a room for your group?

MCC has rooms of all different sizes from a small meeting room to our large scale theatre which seats 200 people.



August 2018

Providing services
for all ages and
stages of people

- > Children
- > Adult Learning
- > Older People
- > People with Learning Disabilities
- > Other vulnerable adults
- > Meeting Place for community groups
- > Conference Centre
- > Mini Bus hire
- > Functions

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There is always lots to talk about at Merkinch Community Centre!

Nothing ever stays static as new people arrive with fresh ideas and the centre life continues to move along. Our community Groups are faithfully attended by many and our customers are also loyal in hiring our rooms and of course loving our hospitality.....

One Education group told us that - they will only book MCC as their training venue as *“you get the best lunch there and the staff are so warm and friendly”*.

Drew Hendry MP holds surgeries every month in our community centre



“I hold regular surgeries to ensure you have the opportunity to discuss your issues with me in person”. No appointment is necessary however if you would like to let me know you will be attending you can call my office on 01463 611024



SELF DEFENCE CLASS GOES DOWN WELL !!

Dolina Ross who is a Karate Coach and also British Karate champion recently held self defence classes for women.

This was successful and we hope to run this class again. If you are interested, please phone the centre to tell us, so that we can keep your enquiry on file

01463 239563

BIG LUNCH... BIG SUCCESS!!

A free community lunch was served by Inverness Christian Fellowship to bring church and community together and enjoyed a ‘good feed’. There were 100 people at the event and a great atmosphere where folks enjoyed the food and fellowship together. This is the second year the lunch has been provided and hope it will be an annual occasion.



Mousetales visits MCC with Oscar and his amazing space adventure.

400 local children came to see this lovely puppet show. It was aimed at nursery age and P1-P3. Some parents came with the nursery children and said that they themselves had never seen a puppet show, so it was ‘win win’ for everyone.

The show was about outer space and solar system. It also had an interesting story line about making friends with people who are different (from outer space) which was a good learning outcome for all the children.



Hello Elsie,

They loved it and didn’t even complain about the long walk from St Joseph’s. It was so nice just for them to take their time coming back in the sunshine and talking about “ the best puppet show ever”.

Thank you for organising it. Best wishes,

Christine Cameron

Head Teacher
St Joseph’s Primary

Monday

- 10-12 Art Society - membership group
- 10-12 Knitting for Charity
- 11-12 Tap Dancing
- 12-1pm Tai Chi
- 12.30-2pm Drama Group
- 3-5.30 pm After School Club

Tuesday

- 10.30-12 Rainbow Singers for adults with LD
- 12.45-1.45 Superart for adults with LD
- 3.30-5pm Step n Style dance class - children
- 3-5.30 After School Club
- 7-9pm Singing for Pleasure
- 7-9pm Inverness Christian Fellowship
- 7-9pm Art Society - membership group

Wednesday

- 10-12 Art Society - membership group
- 12-2pm Lunch Club
- 3-5.30 After School Club
- 6-7pm Karate
- 7.30-9.30 Pipe Band
- 7-9pm Art Society - membership group

Thursday

- 10.30-1230 Social Circle - Hobbies and Digital Gadgets
- 3-5.30 After School Club
- 4-7pm Highland Dancing
- 5.30-6.30 Pop Choir
- 7-9pm FALCON Club for adults with LD

Friday

- 10-12 Archery
- 3-5.30 After School Club

Saturday

Only opened by special arrangement

Sunday 10.30-1.30

Inverness Christian Fellowship

Rooms of varying sizes are available for hire

*Something
for
Everyone
at
MCC*



*If you have
an idea
for a new
activity
please
come
and speak
to us*

We are all trying very hard to support the HAVEN 200 Appeal and various groups in the Centre are all doing their own ideas to raise the money which will receive publicity in the Courier.

Singing for Pleasure ran a raffle one night in their choir practice and raised £212. Pictured here is Elspeth McKinlay who won the large hamper.



The Rainbow Singers decided to do a coffee morning and they brought along home baking to the normal session. We all had great fun with various people doing 'party pieces' lots of singing and dancing and of course enjoying the tea and cakes. There was the usual excitement of the raffle and folks were very pleased with their prizes.

A very happy occasion had by all and they raised £287 for the Haven Appeal



Trinity Church saw the retiral of their minister Alastair Murray and Singing for Pleasure delivered their usual rousing and emotive performance. Everyone enjoyed the concert immensely and was topped off with the Trinity tarts and teas which weighed down the well laden tables. A memorable night!

COOKING CLASS for adults with learning disabilities

The Centre have a partnership with Health and Happiness and Kate Mclean from NHS to provide cooking skills to adults who have learning disabilities.

We are very thankful to Maureen Hutchison who is the volunteer Tutor for these courses.

Everyone enjoys the cooking and eating afterwards!



The community centre achieves a high output of activity with a very small staff team. However, all of this activity would not be possible without a large team of volunteers helping with various tasks.

- ♦ Driving & Escorting the minibus
- ♦ Helping at the lunch club with the elderly
- ♦ Stewarding at large events
- ♦ Sound and light technicians
- ♦ Supporting people with learning disabilities
- ♦ Hospitality in the kitchen doing catering
- ♦ Cleaning and helping with maintenance
- ♦ Delivering mailings
- ♦ Wrapping parcels at Christmas for parties



YOU CAN HIRE THIS MINI BUS

If you are interested, phone or drop in to see us!

VOLUNTEER DINNER A Dinner Celebration Event was held for all the MCC Volunteers. Everyone really enjoyed the occasion and received a certificate for all their valuable skills and time given. Gail Duff from Signpost also attended and was very affirming of the Centre Volunteering Programme. *Well done everyone!!*



Merkinch Community Centre has a Volunteer Friendly Award



The Centre has seen a very low turnover of staff during its lifetime and we interviewed some of the long term staff to find out why they 'stay so long' in their centre jobs.....

ELSIE NORMINGTON
Development Officer

◆ **How long have you worked in Merkinch Community Centre?**

- ◆ *Eighteen years. I started in February 2000*



◆ **What was your original role?**

♦ I came as a Development Officer for two years in order to develop services for people who were in the 50+ years category. The role kept evolving so I stayed!

◆ **What have you enjoyed about working in MCC?**

♦ Really appreciate the opportunity to be creative and develop new ideas with a very supportive Board of Trustees. I like the fact that there are not layers of bureaucracy to go through and we can make new projects happen quite quickly

◆ **What are your key achievements of these 18 years?**

◆ *There are so many wonderful things we have done together! I have to say the Theatre was the biggest project as we secured £122K ten years ago and upgraded an old tired gym hall to a modern community theatre which is used for a wide variety of events including the weekly ICF Church which meets every Sunday.*

◆ *I have also loved developing Singing for Pleasure, Rainbow Singers, all the concerts, special events, training / conference and hospitality events; Launching the 'Golden Times' Project and last year we published our MCC 40 years book with a wonderful Book Launch Event and completed a Celebration Year with a Town House Reception, letter from the Queen and a huge Christmas Extravaganza Concert.*

◆ Why have you stayed so long?

◆ Well its all about people. I love working with people and seeing them empowered to make changes in their own community. I seek to inspire, motivate, encourage and build confidence so that this centre will continue to be a beacon of light in the community. I was awarded the British Empire Medal which was a huge honour.

◆ *Many folks have become my friends.....what more could a person ask for in their job?*

KAREN HALKETT
Administrator



I joined the team at Merkinch Community Centre in 2011. I can honestly say I love my job and the variety of things I do every week. I enjoy the hours in the office working with spreadsheets, designing flyers and posters, overseeing the bookings etc. and then I love being creative at SuperArt on Tuesday afternoons and running the Friendship Club on a Wednesday. No two days are the same and it is such a happy place to work.

There is lots of laughter had amongst the staff and the many different people that use the centre. It's lovely to see the same people come for their regular activities, meet new people that come to MCC for the first time and then observe friendships being made as new people join different groups. I couldn't imagine working anywhere else!

I regularly receive emails full of praise from people that have hired MCC for different meetings and events. They say that our centre is a “wonderful venue, has a lovely atmosphere with a great team of staff and volunteers”. They tell me in the email they “will be back” – and they almost always are!

This tells me that we are all doing our job well.

There are approximately 30 community groups who use the Centre on a regular basis - whether it is for a monthly meeting, art classes or the weekly church service. The Centre accommodates a wide diversity of people and groups. Here is some examples of how the ICF church are serving the community.

Inverness Christian Fellowship is a community church which meets every Sunday in the community centre. They do not only have church services but see the importance of 'putting their faith in action' and serving in the wider life of the community centre. Four members serve every week in the Wednesday Lunch Club for the elderly.



Other members help out with Superart, Social Circle, Hospitality and the FACLON Club.

Others help with sound, light and media. All of this volunteering is hugely appreciated by the community centre and we say a big ‘thank you’ for all their support in our centre programme.

During the summer holidays, ICF delivered a 'Superheroes Activity Club' which was very successful (for the second year) and a good number of children attended from the local area.



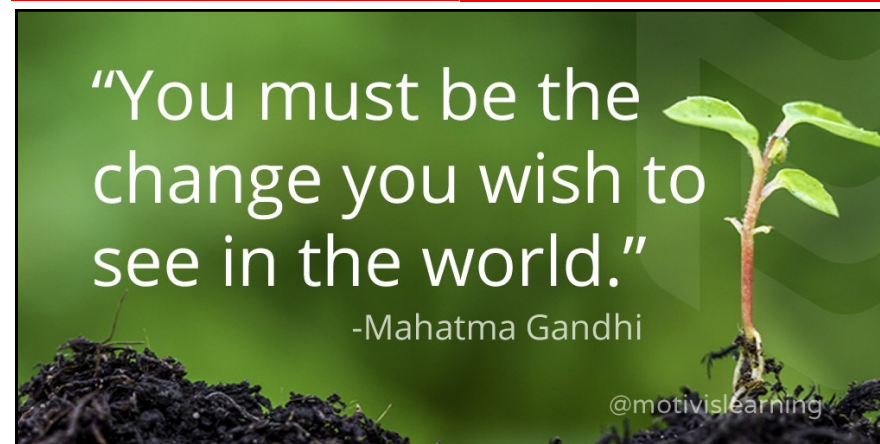
Jane Grzesinski and Olina Friend
at Lunch Club



Anna Williams helps at Superart



David Murray doing IT coaching at the Thursday morning Social Circle



Mary and Joanne
helping at lunch club