

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.

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

Cleaning from Highland Contract Services

The Directors 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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*Where
people
matter!*



Scottish Charity SCIO 000706
www.merkinchcommunitycentre.org.uk

SUCCESS
ISN'T JUST ABOUT
what you accomplish in your life
IT'S ABOUT **INSPIRE**
WHAT YOU
OTHERS TO DO

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 51,000 visits are recorded during the year - that's a lot of people!

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

Merkinch Community Centre is the 'place to be'



Merkinch Community Centre Newsletter



Moving on from 40 year milestone

Last year 2017 was a really big year for the community centre in celebrating the massive milestone of 40 years with several events throughout the year.

We are now in a new season and look forward to all that our centre can provide for now and in the future. As they say *'things never stand still'* so it is our vision to ensure that we provide what our customers request and continue to be the vibrant centre here in the heart of the Merkinch community.

Our centre continues to see a high footfall of over 51,000 visits per year which is really impressive, when some community centres are closing in other parts of the country. We listen and talk with all the folks who use the centre, then aim to provide what they want - that's how it works so well!

The Team at the Centre are just great and supported by so many volunteers — we could never achieve what we do without all their support and help.

Thanks to everyone who helps to make MCC such a happy place!



**'Let's join
together today
to create a
Fabulous
tomorrow'**



Feb 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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40th Celebrations

Merkinch Community Centre enjoyed a wonderful year of celebrating their 40th Anniversary. Throughout the year various events were hosted which marked so many poignant memories from the past. The year opened with a traditional Burns Supper, followed by a project with the local Merkinch Primary School. Various ‘stations’ were created to keep the children interested as they learned about the Centre History. This was followed by a 70s disco and Easter Bonnet event with Tin Pan Alley Jazz Band.

Our book launch was a memorable occasion when we published a book of the many and varied memories which was shared by previous staff and volunteers over the years.

Inverness Christian Fellowship delivered an exciting week on a ‘Superheroes’ theme and this was followed by a lovely Civic Dinner at the Town House. The guest list was mainly volunteers who give their time to MCC. Speeches were made by the Deputy Provost Bet McAllister, Chairperson Anne McCreadie and Elsie Normington Development Officer which was topped off by a letter from the Queen.

The year culminated in a large Christmas Extravaganza which featured *Singing for Pleasure* and several other centre groups. Both shows were packed out and everyone was very proud of their achievements.

Truly a very significant year to remember!



THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF
IS TO LOSE YOURSELF
IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.
GANDHI



‘Celebrating 40 years’
Top Left
Dell McClurg, Councillor
Bet McAllister and
Chairperson Anne
McCreadie
At Town House Civic
Dinner
Top Right
Children from Merkinch
Primary learning our
MCC history
Left
Burns Supper

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
- 4.30-5.30pm Superheroes

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
- 6-8pm 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

Something
for
Everyone
at
MCC

CREATE
with us.

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

Rooms of varying sizes are available for hire

Social Groups

Social Circle

Sharing Activities and Learning



Hobbies - Laptops - Tablets - Gadgets - Board Games - Friendship - Learning - Tea - Coffee - Fun - Laughter - Activities

Thursday Mornings
10am-12:30pm - Cost £2
Merkinch Community Centre
Tel: 01463 239563
Email: enquiries.merkinch@btconnect.com



www.merkinchcommunitycentre.co.uk

The Social Circle provides an opportunity for people to socialise, share hobbies and receive some support with IT.

You can bring along your laptop, tablet, phone and get some tips to help you understand how your gadgets work.

Tea, biscuits and chat is a big part of the group and anyone is welcome to come along and join in. You can just drop in to see what you think and leave when you want to!

We are also open to new ideas, so if anyone wants to bring any suggestions, please speak to us.

*Merkinch
Community Centre
provides
a very warm
WELCOME*

**FALCON
CLUB**
End of term show
for adults with learning disabilities



**Would you like
to Volunteer
at the
FALCON Club?**



Volunteering in the Community Centre

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 the minibus
- ♦ Escort on 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



We were delighted to be awarded a brand new 'low floor' minibus — our main funder being the Highland Cross; Crerar Trust, Robertson Trust and Awards for All.
YOU CAN HIRE IT !!

Our first outing in the new bus with volunteers



We need lots of helpers to achieve all that we do, while lots of people are looking for things to do!

If you may be interested in doing some volunteering, please pop in and have a chat with us as there are various opportunities to serve in the Centre.

We look to match your interests with the tasks and you will receive an induction and support to fulfil your role.

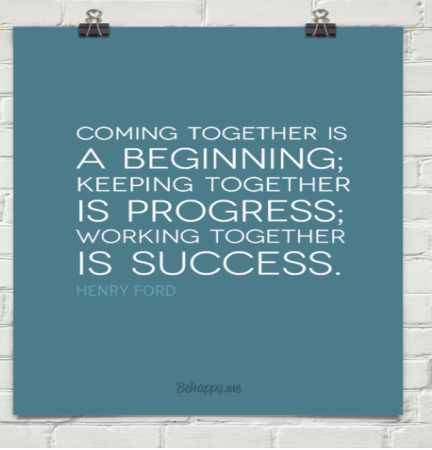
You can try things out to see where you best fit!



Thanks to Viv and Carlie for all their meaningful work with SERENITY.

The group provided very valuable support to those who needed it.

We wish the group well for the future



Meet the Trustees of the Merkinch Community Centre



Chairperson, Anne McCreadie has been serving in the community centre for over forty years, indeed before the centre was even built! She is now in her later years of life, but comes in every day to the centre and spends several hours overseeing things and keeping us all 'on our toes'.

"I attended a public meeting in 1974 and later became secretary of the Merkinch Community Association which was planning a new community centre. I have been involved since that time and became chairperson 26 years ago. During that time the Directors decided to employ a development officer which brought activities for older people and a new lease of life. This has brought me much enjoyment and helped me grow in confidence which has given me a quality of life."

I have represented the centre at Garden Parties in Holyrood and Buckingham Palace, attended Question time at Westminster and visited the London Dome.

I am very proud to be the chairperson of this marvellous community centre.



Irene Pearson



"I joined Singing for Pleasure eight years ago and I thoroughly enjoyed all the Christmas concerts and the weekly company and fun we enjoyed in the centre. I particularly noticed how happy the centre always appeared and people of all ages using the building for various reasons. As a result, I wanted to do something to help, so I initially became the SFP Representative on the User Management Committee. This led to me becoming a Trustee of the MCC Board for the last three years."

My background was in finance so am happy to help wherever needed, bringing governance skills and also help out with the catering and internal fabric of the building. I love networking with people and have brought many folks along to the centre events.

The Centre is a safe place where the old and young attend groups which brighten up their lives and so many folks talk of it being the 'highlight of their week' enjoying the company and the activities.

Long may MCC continue and may we all have the health to enjoy it and keep it going!"

Dell McClurg is a well known name in Merkinch and a real community activist. She has been involved in the life of the centre before it was built and involved ever since!. She really believes in the power of community and spent many years of her life working with young children in the area



and also with the Merkinch Community Centre youth club. Dell has also been involved in the Community Council and the Pier Project where she has given much of her time and life to promoting the area and telling people about the very valuable environmental aspects of the area.

You won't understand the unabashed power of a community until you're a part of one.

Shows in our Theatre



The Christmas Extravaganza was a massive success with over 100 performers and two full house shows! The event showcased a variety of groups and *Singing for Pleasure* performed in their usual style of variety, fun, performance and participation. Tickets were selling for the show from August onwards as various groups wanted to plan their 'Christmas trip to the Merkinch'.

The theme was red and gold and all performers were dressed in that colour scheme – everyone feeling very proud and being part of such a vibrant occasion. *Singing for Pleasure* had new specially designed choir stoles for this special occasion and entertained with laughter, enjoyment and good old traditional carol singing for everyone.

WELL DONE to everyone who took part and also to the staff and volunteers who made this event possible.

Golden Drama Group and Highland Youth Theatre cast for Dick Whittington



SFP wearing their new choir stoles

