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**To:** Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine Local Area Committee

**On:** 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

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**Report by:** Director of Finance & Resources

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**Heading:** HOUSTON, CROSSLEE, LINWOOD, RIVERSIDE & ERSKINE  
LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

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## **1 Summary**

1.1 The Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine Local Area Committee Annual Report 2014/15, attached as an appendix to this report, sets out a number of the LAC's key achievements over the last 12 months. In particular, it makes reference to:

- The number and level of grants awarded by the LAC
- Community Planning Partner reviews for 2014/15
- Feedback from a number of the key projects supported by the LAC

1.2 Members of the LAC are requested to note the draft annual report.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine Local Area Committee Annual Report 2014/15, attached as an Appendix to this report, be noted.

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### **Implications of this report**

- 1. Financial Implications**  
None.
- 2. HR and Organisational Development Implications**  
None.

**3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

Empowering our -  
Communities

**4. Legal Implications**

None.

**5. Property/Assets Implications**

None.

**6. Information Technology Implications**

None.

**7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**

- (a) The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because all venues are fully accessible and dates/times of meetings are recommended with a view to maximising attendance. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

**8. Health and Safety Implications**

None.

**9. Procurement Implications**

None.

**10. Risk Implications**

None.

**11. Privacy Impact**

None.

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**List of Background Papers**

None

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# Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine Local Area Committee Annual Report 2014-15



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>The year in figures.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately £112,000 of funding was awarded for projects and grant applicants during 2014/15</li> <li>• 44 grant applications and projects were approved</li> </ul> <p><b>Elected Members:</b></p> <p>Stuart Clark (Convener)<br/> Audrey Doig<br/> Provost Anne Hall<br/> Alan Noon<br/> Maria Brown<br/> Michael Holmes<br/> James MacLaren<br/> Jim Harte<br/> James McQuade<br/> Sam Mullin (Vice Convener)<br/> Iain Nicolson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> | <p><b>Community Representatives</b></p> <p>Helen Martin (Bridge of Weir Community Council)<br/> Hugh Cameron (Erskine Community Council)<br/> David Woodrow (Bishopton Community Council)<br/> Margaret Dundas (Brookfield Community Council)<br/> Mary McElhinney (Linwood Community Council)<br/> Neil Barrington (Langbank Community Council)<br/> John Ross (Inchinnan Community Council)<br/> R Finnie (Houston Community Council)<br/> Mary McFadyen (Linwood Community Childcare)<br/> Linda Gillies (Bishopton Primary Parents Council)<br/> John Taggart (Erskine)<br/> Iain Cameron Houston &amp; Killellan Kirk)<br/> Robert McNally (Erskine Community Association)<br/> Maureen Henderson (Bishopton Parish Church)<br/> Gordon Lethorn (Bridge of Weir Tenants' &amp; Residents' Association)<br/> Ian McLean (Bridgewater Housing Association Limited)<br/> Iain Wilson<br/> Allan Haldane (Erskine Youth Football Club)<br/> Nan McBride Renfrewshire Early Years Forum for the Voluntary Sector)</p> |
| <p>Marion Berekis (Linwood Healthy Living Group)<br/> Janet Hardie (Linwood Friendship Group)<br/> Elaine Tyrrell (Cairellot Day Nursery)<br/> Margaret O'Neill (Inchinnan Community Playpark and Garden Association)<br/> Erskine Youth Council<br/> Scottish Youth Parliament</p>  |   |

## 2014/15 Community Planning Partner Reviews

### Renfrewshire CHP

#### **Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership – LAC Annual Review 2014**

In 2014, the Community Health Partnership (CHP) provided the Local Area Committees with updates on:

- Older People's Services;
- Renfrewshire Development Programme/Clinical Services Review; and
- Health and Wellbeing Survey of Secondary School Age Young People in Renfrewshire.

This report provides a further update in these three areas.

#### **1. Older People**

In October 2014, the CHP and partners hosted an event on Dementia: Mid-life Approaches to Prevention. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the key behavioural and medical risk factors which are directly associated in delaying the onset/prevention of dementia. Feedback from the event was positive and the key message was that "What's good for your heart is good for your head". Drinking in moderation, exercise, healthy diet and stopping smoking reduce your risk of developing dementia. Community Planning Partners are keen to work towards Renfrewshire becoming a dementia friendly community.

#### **2. Renfrewshire Development Programme/Clinical Services Review**

The Renfrewshire Development Programme (RDP) is underway in Renfrewshire which sees the whole medical and social care community working together to test more effective ways to deliver care in hospitals and community settings. The RDP is already creating better links between hospital and community health and social care services. We are also ensuring that senior medical staff and a range of allied health and care at home staff are available as soon as possible after a person attends A&E or is admitted into hospital.

The project is a partnership between the Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH), Renfrewshire Council Social Work Services, GP practices and Community Health Services. To ensure that local people and communities are engaged in the project, the team are also working closely with the third sector including Engage Renfrewshire.

Over the next 12 months local health and social care teams will be testing and developing ways to improve the provision and accessibility of community health and social care services, ensure that only people who need to attend A&E do so, prevent avoidable hospital admission and reduce the length of time a person stays in hospital.

Four of the key developments being put in place are:

**Anticipatory care planning** - all 13 Paisley GP practices will be working with adults and older people with long term and end of life conditions, to develop individual 'anticipatory' care plans. These plans are developed with the person and their family or carers by their GP with input from other health and social care services and sets out exactly what the person wants to happen in the event of a 'crisis' in and out of hours.

**A New Chest Pain Assessment Unit at the RAH** - the New Chest Pain Assessment Unit is staffed by specialist cardiology nurses, with support from senior Cardiologists. The aim of the unit is to improve the journey for people for whom the initial diagnosis is not clear and ensure specialist cardiology input into their care at the very earliest opportunity, allowing a diagnosis to be made more quickly and preventing avoidable hospital admissions and follow on support.

**A new Community in-reach Out of Hours service at the RAH** - a new health and care at home in-reach team will be based in the RAH A&E, in the evenings and weekends. The team's role will be to prevent avoidable admission to hospital following A&E attendance by ensuring that patients receive the right community health and social care they need at home as soon as they leave hospital. For those who need it transport and settlement at home will also be provided.

**A new Older Adults Assessment Unit at the RAH** - the aim of this new unit is to provide a rapid care plan for older adults which takes into account all of their health and social care needs not only the medical issue which has brought them to the hospital. Through new ways of working the team can rapidly identify what community support is required and, working with colleagues in the community, can get that in place so the person can go home and be supported in a much more comfortable and familiar setting.

### **3. Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey**

The results of the Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey were presented to the Local Area Committees in November 2014. The Survey was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 with 125 attending the event. Around 70% of attendees were school pupils, a number of whom had participated in the survey. Many attendees found the session enjoyable and informative and told us the information given in the presentation was interesting; some said they were surprised at some of the results. People thought there was good representation of all age groups, backgrounds and professions at the launch and this worked well in the discussion groups.

Athletes Louise Renicks and Gregg Wylde joined us on the day and the audience appreciated this part of the session and enjoyed having the opportunity to ask Louise and Gregg questions on how they got into their particular sport and the wider discussion on health and wellbeing issues.

Looking ahead to 2015, we expect to be able to share with LACs the information on community health profiles. Some of this information is available at intermediate zone level, providing LACS with more local data.

## Houston, Crosslee and Riverside Local Area Committee Annual Report

### 1. **Community Safety Summary**

- 1.1 Police Scotland reports that crime has reduced this year, especially serious assault and domestic housebreakings.
- 1.2 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service reports that fires decreased, with educational activities and interventions 'Cooksafe' and 'Fire Reach' contributing to the reduction.
- 1.3 Reductions in antisocial behaviour were reinforced by Community Safety initiatives such as Safe Kids, the Festive Safety Campaign, School Talks and the Your Home, Your Street, Our Community event.
- 1.4 The success of the youth diversionary programme 'Street Stuff' continues as annual attendances are at a 6 year high which corresponds to a 6 year low in youth disorder.

### 2. **Police Scotland**

- 2.1 Police Scotland's priorities for Houston, Crosslee and Riverside in 2014 were as follows:

| Priorities | Ward 9                   | Ward 10                  | Ward 11                  |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1          | Drug Dealing / Use       | Drug Dealing / Use       | Road Safety & Road Crime |
| 2          | Violence and ASB         | Dishonesty               | Violence and ASB         |
| 3          | Dishonesty               | Road Safety & Road Crime | Dishonesty               |
| 4          | Road Safety & Road Crime | Violence and ASB         | Drug Dealing / Use       |

- 2.2 In order to address these priorities the following actions have been taken:

- **Working With Partners** – Police Scotland worked closely with elected members to identify and understand emerging local issues and take robust action where necessary to prevent crime and disrupt those responsible for causing community harm.
- **Violent Crime & Antisocial Behaviour** – The focus on violent crime and anti-social behaviour has increased, particularly at key times of activity.

The powers of stop search have been used to keep streets safe and arrest offenders.

- **Visibility** - To increase public confidence Police Scotland has increased its visibility in the community and made the best use of resources to target the right people, at the right place and the right time.
- **Intelligence & Partnerships** – Police Scotland has cultivated, developed and acted on community intelligence, particularly in relation to drug dealing and has taken swift action to arrest offenders and take them to court. Effective partnership working arrangements to ensure evictions and antisocial behaviour orders are pursued where possible.
- **Housebreaking, Acquisitive and Bogus Crime** – Police Scotland constantly review their approach to tackling housebreaking, acquisitive and bogus crime and ensure that crime prevention advice is provided to protect the most vulnerable, improve property security and deter offenders.
- **Road Safety** – Division wide roads safety initiatives have been introduced focussing on education and the enforcement of road traffic legislation - in particular speeding, insurance, mobile phone and vehicle defect offences.
- **Alcohol Abuse** - Alcohol abuse has been targeted through the use of test purchase agents and the identification of local retailers who fail to comply with licensing laws. In partnership with divisional and council licensing enforcement departments, identified premises have been robustly dealt with and prosecuted where appropriate.
- **Intelligence and Forensic Opportunities** - Best use has been made of forensic opportunities to identify offenders and focus attention on compliance regimes within second hand dealers and retail premises - as well as increasing intelligence on those suspected of resetting stolen property.
- **Road Safety** – Police Scotland focus on roads safety and use specialist resources to patrol high risk areas of concern and target speeding and dangerous motoring. Partnership working with Renfrewshire Community Safety Wardens has tackled dangerous and unlawful parking.

2.3 So far this year in this LAC area, incidents of violent crime have reduced by nearly one-quarter. This amounts to four fewer victims than the corresponding period last year. There were also three fewer victims of



serious assault, and a reduction of around one-third in the number of domestic housebreakings.

### 3. **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service**

3.1 The Local Fire & Rescue Plan for Renfrewshire (2014-17) identifies the priorities for Renfrewshire as:

- Local risk management and preparedness;
- Reduction of accidental dwelling fires;
- Reduction in fire casualties and fatalities;
- Reduction of deliberate fire setting;
- Reduction of fires in non-domestic property;
- Reduction in casualties from non-fire emergencies;
- Reduction of unwanted fire alarm signals.

3.2 As part of the vision to make our communities a safer place to live, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SF&RS) offer free home fire safety visits to everyone in the area. There were 503 Home Fire Safety visits carried out by the Johnstone Fire Station between Apr-Dec 2014.

3.3 Fire incidents within Houston, Crosslee and Riverside local area committee area are shown below:

|                                   | <b>Apr-Dec 2013</b> | <b>Apr-Dec 2014</b> | <b>Variance</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Fires Involving Domestic Property | 10                  | 12                  | -2              |
| Secondary Fires                   | 21                  | 14                  | -7              |
| Deliberate Fire Setting           | 10                  | 10                  | 0               |

3.4 Overall fires have reduced in Apr-Dec 2014 when compared to the corresponding period in 2013. SF&RS educational activities and interventions contributed to this decrease:

- **The Fire Reach Programme**– Delivered by SF&RS and the Renfrewshire Community Safety Youth Team, this targets young people who had come to the attention of the Community Safety Hub for fire related offences. This intensive course is focussed on raising the awareness of the impact of deliberate fire raising, antisocial behaviour and team building.
- **Bonfire/ Fireworks Campaign** – SF&RS, alongside Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Community Safety Youth Team, delivered safety presentations to all S1 pupils in Renfrewshire High Schools. As part of a

partnership approach to prevent and reduce the number of unauthorised bonfire sites in Renfrewshire. This included Renfrewshire Wardens' presence at fire stations on Bonfire Night.

- **Cooksafe** – SF&RS deliver the Cooksafe programme throughout Renfrewshire to ensure safe cooking and fire safety information is available for vulnerable groups within the community.

#### 4. **Renfrewshire Community Safety Services**

4.1 Community safety partners meet on a daily basis to ensure that early intervention strategies are used to tackle issues relating to youth disorder, anti social behaviour and crime. Incidents are discussed at the daily tasking meeting to determine behaviour which interventions are most appropriate for (ie early intervention from the noise teams, Youth Team and Housing, etc). This has contributed considerably to the reductions in antisocial behaviour and youth disorder in 2014. Renfrewshire Community Safety Partners have also implemented several initiatives to help reduce antisocial behaviour, including:

- **Safe Kids** – This multi-agency experiential learning programme aims to reduce the number of accidents in young people, promote positive behaviour and eliminate risks. The Safe Kids programme has been running in Renfrewshire for more than 10 years, and has proven to be very successful. Every primary 6 pupil within Renfrewshire has the opportunity to learn vital life skills through participation in a variety of safety workshops delivered by Community Safety Partners, including Police Scotland, SF&RS, Community Safety Team, Renfrewshire Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (RADAR) and St Mirren. Last year's workshops focused on physical safety and online safety.
- **The Festive Safety Campaign** – This campaign was delivered in Paisley town centre, featuring a Safe Bus in New Street/High Street at peak dates and times over the festive period. A police officer, warden and paramedics were available at the bus for anyone who was injured, felt threatened or needed safety advice. Taxi marshalling also took place at County Square, organised by Renfrewshire Wardens, who along with police colleagues, also increased their patrols in the town centre.
- **School Talks** - Following on from Safe Kids talks delivered to P6 pupils, the Community Safety Youth Team deliver talks to Primary 7 and First Year pupils about antisocial behaviour in the community, including environmental crime.

- 4.2 Renfrewshire Community Safety Services, working with partners, continued to win awards in 2014. For the third year running they were successful in winning the Community Risk category of the National ALARM Risk Management Awards.

5. **Street Stuff**

- 5.1 Street Stuff is a diversionary programme aimed at young people between the ages of 10 and 18 diverting them away from antisocial behaviour into more meaningful activities. Street Stuff is managed and coordinated by Renfrewshire Council's Community Resources and delivered in partnership with St Mirren FC, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Engage Renfrewshire and other Council departments.

- 5.2 Street Stuff is anticipating their best year ever. Projected annual attendances are at a 6 year high which corresponds to a 6 year low in youth disorder and antisocial behaviour. During Apr-Dec 2014, over 20,000 young people participated - which is already more than the total attendance for the whole of last year 2013/14. Projected 2014/15 youth disorder statistics indicate an average reduction of around 75% across Renfrewshire since the project began in 2009.

| Year                     | 2013/14 | Apr-Dec 2014 |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Street Stuff Attendance  | 20,164  | 20,916       |
| Youth disorder Incidents | 1393    | 1028         |
| % change previous year   | ↓34%    | -            |

## **Education and Leisure Services**

Education and Leisure Services in 2014 included library services, arts and museum services, youth and sport services and the adult learning and literacies services.

This report details the key successes achieved by these services and future developments during 2014 which ensure that the communities of Renfrewshire are experiencing and engaging in high quality initiatives.

Key highlights for services in 2014 include: free wi-fi in all libraries; e-books & e-audio books available to download; introduction of self-service library kiosks; developing skills for learning, life & work, for young people; provision of quality youth information; development of Sports Hubs to increase participation in sports locally; involvement of school pupils across Renfrewshire in over 190,000 visits to Active Schools supported sport and physical activity sessions.

### Youth Services

A new Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) group at Linwood High has been established and a new open (non-school based) award group based at Erskine is to start soon to help meet the growing demand for the Award. The young DofE leaders supporting the Park Mains High School DofE group have been recently been trained to deliver smoking cessation, No Knives Better Lives and first aid sessions to other young people. New outdoor learning programmes have been delivered with pupils from Park Mains High School. Young people have been taking part in Forest School Education and learning bushcraft skills at Boden Bo to develop their confidence and self esteem, communication skills and working with others. After months of practice, LADDS and CLASS ACTS in Linwood (dance and drama youth clubs) performed a musical show at Christmas time. A new volunteer champion project based at Linwood and Park Mains High Schools involves young leaders promoting the benefits of volunteering to other young people. Community based youth provision based at Bargarran in Erskine includes the junior and senior youth clubs and a new mountain bike club. Although now an independent organisation, Youth Services continues to support Erskine Music and Media Studios at Bargarran.

### Sports Services

The Active School and Sports Development Team's are continuing to support and develop the recruitment of volunteers, supporting young coaches. Provide opportunities for young people to participate in sport in breakfast, lunchtime, after schools clubs and evening community sport clubs.

- 17 schools are within this LAC – 4 high schools, 14 primary and one special school
- 104 breakfast clubs, 196 lunchtime clubs and 421 afterschool clubs were available January – June 2014
- 10,6274 participant sessions were delivered within the schools in this area with 53,795 being female only participant sessions.
- 29,605 male participant sessions took place in the primary schools, 20,475 in the secondary and 2,399 in the ASN schools. Similarly the female sessions were 32,583, 20,490 and 722 respectively.
- There were 22 different activities available to pupils
- 6,637 sessions were delivered by unpaid coaches and 2,943 sessions delivered by paid coaches.
- 59 school club links were established ranging from advertising to coaching
- 538 males and 563 females participated.

### Adult Learning/ Literacies

Bargarran Community Centre in Erskine continues to offer a wide range of community based learning opportunities for adults. Courses include Literacies, English of Learners of Other Languages (ESOL), Workclubs and Employability Classes, Computing and IT Skills, Gaelic, as well as Health and Wellbeing Programmes. In Linwood a partnership between Adult Learning and Literacies Service, Our Lady of Peace Primary School and the Polish Little Angels Club

(POLAC) has been developed in Linwood. As a result there is now a very busy ESOL session taking place in the school every week. The aim is to help parents develop their English language skills to support their children with homework and school or club activities. At the same time the children are also taught Polish language and culture by local volunteers. Other adult learning venues include Tweedie Hall, Linwood Library and Bridge of Weir Learning Centre.

### Libraries

The new library opened in the Tweedie Hall, Linwood in May and is the first to introduce self service kiosks for customers. These kiosks allow customers to issue and return items, pay any library charges and manage their own accounts. Feedback has been very positive, with customers enjoying the modern environment which has comfortable seating and is light and airy. The installation of the self service kiosks has enabled staff to spend more time to interact with customers, ensuring a customer focused service. The children's area is well used and the number of items issued have risen significantly.

### Arts & Museums

The new Tweedie Hall is now operational and managed by Arts & Museums staff as part of the town halls estate. Feedback from customers has been positive and the staff continue to promote the venue for events, conferences, weddings etc. External signage was installed before the end of 2014, to highlight the new facility within the retail park.

A key objective during 2014 was to improve access to the museum and art galleries. The Victorian building has public areas on a number of different levels which in the 21<sup>st</sup> century have resulted in significant access issues. Capital works to the building have resulted in improved DDA access to the key exhibition spaces in the museum and art galleries. The work has improved visitor experiences and there has been positive feedback from customers.

### **Local Green Network Project**

Funding from the LAC is being put towards improving access routes in the north of Linwood. Thanks to LAC support, Renfrewshire Council's Planning and Economic Development Service is leading a Local Green Network project in partnership with a number of agencies and the local community group Linwood Active. In 2014/15, the LAC awarded £10,000 to the Linwood Community Woodland Link project. This funding was matched with Renfrewshire Council's Local Green Network budget and helped secure further funding from sportscotland, Renfrewshire Leisure, Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership and Glasgow Airport. LAC funding has

enabled a project with a total value of £145,000 to be progressed for completion within 2015.

The Linwood Community Woodland Link project will improve the path network between the ON-X Leisure Centre and Linwood Community Woodland. The improved paths will offer a safe, traffic-free environment for users of all ages, interests and mobility levels and will link directly into Linwood Community Woodland, a natural playground and classroom. The project will enhance the external facilities of the sports centre and will encourage healthier lifestyles and greater use of the adjacent woodland as a destination for outdoor education and recreation.

Detailed designs are now complete, the procurement exercise is underway and a site start is anticipated for Spring 2015.





## Active Communities

### Parkour Club

Active Communities worked with local young people in Linwood through its Hearty Lives project to help them set up a Parkour club in Linwood. We were thrilled to receive LAC funding which allowed us to start up a brand new club called Linwood Parkour! The club runs on a Tuesday night in the gym hall of St Benedicts High School and is well attended by local young people varying in ages from P7 to S6! The club launched in September and is staffed by Hearty Lives youth workers and a parkour coach from Glasgow Parkour Coaching. The club wouldn't have got off the ground without LAC funding. The 2 local high schools are thrilled with this new opportunity for young people as are the young people!





### I Am Me Project

We have greatly relied on the LAC funding and from the £17,000 we received this year we have worked closely with PACE Theatre Co to design a hard hitting DVD based on the live I Am Me performance that has toured across Scotland. The funding was over 50% of the total we needed to raise to fund this project (other funders were BAA, ScotRail, Foundation Scotland, Co-op, Police Scotland & awards for all)

Once developed, the film will be available as a free resource for any group or school to use. In addition to the film, we have worked closely with a large steering group (Police Scotland, Social Work, Community Resources, Education, Housing, Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Office, Capability Scotland, Quarriers and 8 young people from Castlehead High School). This steering group is working to design a training pack which will accompany the DVD.

Please find attached a link for the DVD

<https://vimeo.com/111655897>

In the last year the project has been finalised for an NDA award in London (National Diversity Award)

Won the public safety award (Police Scotland)

Finalised for ROCCO Award

We are also preparing the Keep Safe for national delivery (already going live in the Borders, Ayrshire and Dundee)

We have also secured funding for an Intern post through Invest in Renfrewshire. We have recently chosen a successful candidate and they will be based in the community safety team and supervised by Police Scotland.



## Bishopton Parish Church

Bishopton Parish Church is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the building of the Church building in May 2015. It will publish a book about the Church's history and its involvement with the local community. The Church is grateful to the LAC for grant aid for this publication. Leading up to the Bicentenary Year, during 2014 the Church's Bicentenary Committee organised a number of events involving the local community in the year leading up to the Bicentenary. These included a concert by the Paisley Operatic Society, a Quiz Night, a Celtic Music Night with the "Scott Wood Trio" a group led by a local Erskine musician and a Fashion Evening, all of which were very well supported. It also publicised the Bicentenary at Bishopton Day. Further events planned for 2015 include a concert by the Glasgow Phoenix Choir, a traditional Sunday School outing and an exhibition showing the Church's history and community development involving schools, libraries, museums and local youth organisations. This will be linked to the Renfrewshire Open Doors event. There will also be special church services including a service marking the Bicentenary on Sunday 17th May, planned to be followed by a Renfrewshire Council Civic Reception.

The Bicentenary book, which is at the final editing stage, will cover not only the previous 200 year period but will trace the history of the Church and the village from its earliest time in the 12th century to the present day. It explains how the Church's history has been intertwined with the development of Bishopton from a small hamlet called Kirkton (or Kirkton) of Erskine, located just to the north of the present village, to a community of around 5,000 people. The book details many changes that have taken place in the Church and community over the years. It lists significant events in the Church's life, for example its support of education and its provision of the first Parish school building at Kirkton, its marriage ceremony for Christian Shaw who was not only involved with the Bargarran Witch Trial but also laid the foundations for the Renfrewshire thread industry, its involvement with the establishment of Langbank Church in the 19th century, its union with Rossland Church and the start of its outreach work with Erskine Hospital in the 20th Century. It explains the role of the Church's heritors, essentially the principal local land owners who supported the Church in the community, which came to an end in 1925 and the ways in which the formation of the Free Church in 1843 and its reunion with the Church of Scotland in 1929 affected Bishopton congregations. The book provides information about the Church's present building itself and its architect, David Hamilton, one of Scotland's most famous architects, whose work included the design of Hutchesons' Hospital in Ingram Street in Glasgow. It also describes the development of the Cornerstone, the Church's community hall. The book will form an integral part of the publicity for the Bicentenary and will help to promote Bishopton and the new Dargavel Village as a place where people engage and have a sense of identity and security.

## **No Substitute for Life**

The LAC funding supported the annual 'No Substitute for Life' Memorial Football Event held in Ferguslie. The project was lead by members of the community who had lost loved ones to suicide and it aimed to:

- Educate and raise public awareness of suicide prevention
- Deliver prevention and intervention actions
- Provide practical support to those affected by suicide
- Work with a wide range of partners to ensure that suicide prevention is everyone's business
- Training the general public and key professional groups in suicide awareness and intervention skills.

Activities of the day of the tournament included the football tournament itself, information stands including stress management, alcohol and drugs and national helplines, memorial balloon release, diversionary activities, stress management taster sessions, creative workshops for under-16s, gym bus to promote healthier lifestyles and smoothie bikes to promote healthy eating.

The event attracted a record number of attendees with numbers significantly up on the 500-600 people who attended the first tournament in 2012.

Since the event, RAMH have been contacted by the Scottish Government (Mental Health Division) who are looking for examples of good practice, as Scottish contributions to a pan European report on Innovation in Mental Health. No Substitute for Life is one of the 5 issues selected in Scotland. As well as the positive impact of the event in the community a number of negative impacts were requested by the Scottish Government as part of their study. RAMH identified these as sustainability / funding; emotional impact and associated vulnerability of participants (bringing back distressing memories); and preparation and developing resilience prior to events (you need to prepare people for something as emotionally challenging).



Stephen McLellan  
Chief Executive, RAMH

### **St James Orchestra**

It's been an exciting year for St James Orchestra, celebrating our Golden Jubilee.

The first major event was a tour to Germany in July, performing in three concerts in the Düsseldorf area. The first concert coincided with the World Cup match between Germany and France, resulting in a small audience in spite of the venue showing the match on a large screen to attract as many people as possible. The other two concerts, however, attracted large audiences and Paisley's own amateur orchestra were rewarded with standing ovations.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> Provost Anne Hall hosted a Civic Reception to mark our 50 years of making music in Paisley, and our Jubilee Dinner and Ceilidh followed this. This was an opportunity for members and friends from long ago to meet up with the present membership on a wonderful social occasion. A number of people who played in the very first concert were present, including four who are still involved in the orchestra today.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> was the date of our Jubilee Concert. The LAC funding made it possible for us to hold this in Paisley Town Hall, a wonderful venue for such an occasion. A large and appreciative audience heard us perform a programme of popular classics and pieces connected to the history of the orchestra.

## St James Orchestra



#### LAC Grant applications

The five LACs made a total of 284 awards to grant applicants during 2014/15. In terms of feedback, against a target of 90%, 97.78% of applicants were either very satisfied or satisfied with the information they received; 98.44% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the way they were treated; 98.44% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the helpfulness of staff; 98.44% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the knowledge of staff; and 98.44% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the time they waited for a response. The overall satisfaction rating for the LAC grant application process was 98.31%.

For further information, please contact Dave Low, Senior Committee Services Officer (LACs) – 0141 6187105