

Fauldhouse Together

Issue 19, Winter 2012/13



The latest news on developments in our village, from the FCDT Team

The Hub's Sunlight Cafe

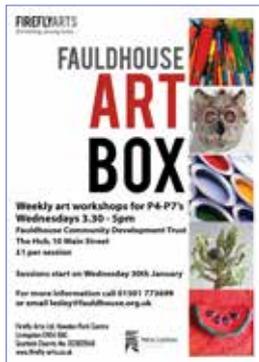
The Sunlight Cafe is a meeting place in The Hub where people, who have any form of dementia, can come with their carers to meet others in a similar situation for support and social contact.

Run by volunteers and supported by FCDT, Alzheimer Scotland, West Lothian Carers and NHS Lothian, the cafe offers a friendly place for those with dementia, their families and/or friends to meet up for a chat and coffee. Carers on their own are also welcome, as are people with dementia that are able to make their own way there.

Come along for the whole morning or alternatively drop in for part of it – to attend the support group, join in activities, or just come in for coffee and a chat. You will have access to information, support and advice. A light lunch is available for £2. See page 7 for The Sunlight Cafe dates for this year.



The Sunlight Cafe takes place on the last Thursday of every month between 11.30am – 1.30pm at The Hub, FCDT, 10 Main Street, Fauldhouse. If you would like more information please contact us on 01501 773 699 or email lesley@fauldhouse.org.uk



Fauldhouse Art Box

Firefly Arts are running weekly art workshops for children at The Hub on Wednesdays from 3.30 – 5pm.

These workshops are aimed at Primary 4 to 7 aged children and run for eight to nine weeks at £1 per session.

Places are limited so booking is recommended. If your child is interested in attending Fauldhouse Art Box please contact Lesley on 01501 773 699, email her on lesley@fauldhouse.org.uk or pop into The Hub, 10 Main Street, Fauldhouse.

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Fauldhouse Faces



With the holidays, the busiest time of year for the Post Office, now a distant memory, we thought we would catch up with the ladies who manage our Fauldhouse Post Office situated within the Scotmid Supermarket.

Flora Greenhorn Broughton popped along and spoke to Helen Mackay who is the 'Officer in Charge'. Helen lived in Fauldhouse for about seventeen years then moved to Whitburn eight years ago. Helen has two married daughters and three grandchildren.

Flora: How long have you worked in the Post Office?

Helen: Very soon I will have logged up thirty years service!

Congratulations! That's some achievement. How many staff do you have to assist you?

I have two staff, one position is part time. Between us we work a shift rota of two staff covering mornings and one staff for afternoons. We also work three Saturdays out of four from nine in the morning till twelve thirty in the afternoon.

Was the Post Office your first job?

Yes – I worked in the Blackridge Office.

Apart from dealing with mail and parcels, what other services are offered at your counter?

The public can pay Gas and Electric bills, deposit money into their Post Office Bank Account, send a Moneygram. We no longer take Television payments but we handle Telephone bill payments although this has decreased quite a bit due to payments being made by the internet.

What is the busiest day for you and your staff?

Monday for Pensions then Tuesday for Child Benefit payments although many people now opt for payments being made directly into their bank.

Does each staff member have to sit and check the money in their cash drawer at the end of every day.

Yes we do, it's called a 'Cash Declaration'.

I presume you have good security measures in place?

Yes, we don't keep cash on the premises for any length of time. All excess cash is removed by our Scotmid Head Office at Newbridge.

Just as a reminder for new residents in Fauldhouse – when did the Post Office move into the Scotmid building?

We moved in 2000. Scotmid has around forty Post Offices running within various stores. When I need help or advice I ring the Scotmid Help Desk at Newbridge.

I know that you worked in the original Post Office at 'The Cottage' on the Main Street (opposite the Charity Shop) but I shall come and speak to you about that at a later date.

Is there a recurring problem you face in dealing with the public on a daily basis?

Yes, there are always problems when people attempt to renew their Road Tax. They never have the right documents and think that we

are just being awkward with them when we can't process the renewal. This can be frustrating.

Do you have any particular hobbies for relaxation?

I am kept busy with my grandchildren, walking my dog and I try and escape for a break to my caravan whenever possible.

If you had the power – what changes would you make?

I know this won't ever happen – but I would like to see the old style Post Office Benefit Books back in use!

The next member of the Post Office staff Flora spoke to was Marina Park who is a Fauldhouse 'bairn'. Marina has one daughter and a granddaughter and has been working in Fauldhouse Post Office for six years as the Deputy Manager.



What previous jobs did you have?

I worked in the Nursing Home in Fauldhouse for a number of years and also at Quick Save at Whitburn.

cont.

We see adverts for a 'Passport Service' – what is this ?

It's called 'Check and Send' and is available at Main Post Offices. The counter assistant helps by checking that the person applying for a passport or renewal of one, has all the required documents and that they are correctly filled in, their photograph is of the correct size and style etc. and the fee payment is correct. It is a good service and used regularly by the public.

What do you like about your job?

I enjoy dealing with the public and it can be interesting learning about the new products we can offer.

Is there training involved?

Yes – about three months initially and after that it continues with on the job training.

We hear about the Lottery wins every week. Not so much news about Premium Bond winners. Do you sell many Premium Bonds?

Yes, Bonds are one of our biggest sellers. But I don't know of any Fauldhouse winners so far, unless they have kept it very quiet. In the past bonds cost £10 now they cost £100 which can be bit daunting for people on a low budget.

If a person has changed address and has a Bond registered at their old address – what can they do?

Call at the Post Office and the assistant will help them complete a form and it will then be sent off to The Bond office.

What do you see as the main differences in the Services provided in recent years?

Well, the counters are less busy and there is more emphasis on 'selling' products. For example we offer Insurance for Cars, Homes and Travel and have leaflets on these services. The public are not very happy that the old 'saving stamps' have been discontinued and paying TV licences has ceased. Also the old 'Pension

Books' have been replaced by the plastic card but most senior citizens are coping with this.

What are your work shift hours?

My shift is thirty hours with half day Tuesday and Wednesday and I work one in four Saturdays.

How do you relax after your work shift?

My granddaughter keeps me busy. I enjoy car runs, meals out, reading and watching TV soaps.

The next person Flora spoke to was Claire Sharp who is a Customer Advisor at the Post Office. Claire is a 'Fauldhouse Bairn' and has two children, 6 year old Ellie and 18 month old Lucas. Claire works on a part-time basis of nine and half hours over two days.



How long have you been with the Post Office?

My first job began at Scotmid about twelve years ago and almost nine years of those have been as part of the Post Office Team.

What do you like about the job?

I really enjoy dealing with the public and it's great sharing the local chit chat.

What changes have taken place over recent years?

I would think the main one is the emphasis on 'selling new products'.

I know you have a little boy now – did you find the Maternity Leave arrangements were adequate?

Yes I had nine months of paid Maternity Leave from the Post Office. I had also saved up many of my holiday days therefore in total I had almost a year's leave from May until March. Before I went on Maternity Leave I worked a part-time shift of nineteen hours over four days. Now I work a part time shift of five hours on a Monday and four and a half hours on a Tuesday. These hours really suit me and fit in well with my daughters school time.

Well with a young family you will be kept busy all the time. Do you manage to find a little time for any hobbies at all?

Well, recently, all my spare time was going into the planning of my wedding.

This sounds exciting. Would you like to share some of this great news with our readers?

Certainly. I married Chris Martin from Whitburn at the Hilcroft Hotel on Saturday the 29th December.

Well - Congratulations from everyone!



Don't Mr and Mrs Martin look fantastic! Looks like they had a lovely day.

What's available in The Hub



The Hub Kids Cinema Club

The Hub Cinema has started a monthly Kid's Cinema Club on Friday afternoons at 1.30pm (on the last Friday of the month).

So far it has been very well attended. We've shown several kids movies including 'Brave' and we will be showing Easter themed 'Hop' on Friday 22 March.

To attend film showings, children need to join the The Hub Kid's Cinema Club. Membership is £24/year or 12 x payments of £2. Tuck shop available.

For more information on films and how to become a member, see our website or contact Mhairi or Lesley at The Hub on 01501 773 699, email info@fauldhouse.org.uk or pop into see us. Booking in advance is advised.

Office, meeting and conference space available in The Hub

Fauldhouse Business Hub offers a variety of office options, conference and meeting facilities. We offer flexible terms and competitive rates to individuals, businesses and community organisations.

We have a variety of rental options, from a desk in a shared office for couple of hours a day, to long term office lets at competitive prices. Rates start from as little as £35/week or £135/month and include heating, utilities, broadband and Wi Fi. There is also access to photocopying; advice and assistance on organising events and publicising your business, organisation or your conference.

Fauldhouse Business Hub can also provide meeting space and conference facilities (capacity 30) at very competitive prices. Whether you need a space to hold interviews, seminars, training sessions, business meetings or one off events, Fauldhouse Business Hub can accommodate your needs.

Fauldhouse Community Development Trust is a registered charity and all income generated is used for community projects.

For further information, please contact Julie Smith on 01501 773 699/07429 638 365 or email her at julie@fauldhouse.org.uk

Soft play area for under 5s

Come along and let your pre school kids play in our soft play area for £1/hour (includes free juice for kids). Coffee and tea available. At the moment we are open Mondays to Fridays 9.30am – 3pm.

Children's parties

The Hub is available to book for children's parties.

We have

- our soft play area for younger kids parties (under 5s),
- a large multi-use space (upstairs) for party games, children's entertainer, face painter, crafts or whatever you plan for your child's party,
- cinema facilities for children of all ages and kitchen facilities

Just bring your own party goodies and birthday cake.

Contact Mhairi on 01501 773 699 for further information.



Fauldhouse BusinessHub



**Office Space for
Organisations or Individuals**

**Flexible Terms and
Competitive Rates**

A Variety of Options

Conference Facilities

**Space for Meetings,
Interviews, One off Events**

Photocopying



For more information contact Julie Smith on 01501 773 699

**The Hub, Fauldhouse Community Development Trust
10 Main Street, Fauldhouse, West Lothian, EH47 9HX**

tel: 01501 773 699
email: info@fauldhouse.org.uk
web: fauldhouse.org.uk



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Community Woodland Repairs



As many of you will be aware, Fauldhouse forest was badly damaged in the storms of January 2012. The only option left to us was to fell the damaged areas and start from scratch. This resulted in damage to the paths in the area, making them unsuitable for use by the many people who walk there on a daily basis.

I am pleased to report that the damage has now been repaired and the paths are again fit for use. The path, which leads from Park View, has been re-instated and many of the gradients reduced, making the short loop more suitable for less able users.

Shortly, we will begin replanting the felled areas and hopefully restore the forest to the site you all know and love.

Should any local Community groups be interested in a visit to the forest or a Guided walk, I can be contacted by email or telephone, as listed below.

Jim Smalls, Community Ranger

email: james.smalls@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

tel: 01555 660 190



Fauldhouse Fundraising

Fundraising for The Michelle Henderson Fund Cervical Cancer Trust. The cast from the show 'Red Hat Sunday, A Christmas Cracker' held in The Welfare Club, Fauldhouse raised £4225.

District Nurse Margaret Cleary presents the cheque to former Rangers and Scotland footballer Willie Henderson in memory of his daughter Michelle.

Margaret and Willie, on behalf of the Trust Fund will travel to Indonesia in May for an 80 mile jungle trek before climbing Mount Kratatoa. We wish them well. Donations welcome.



Des Murphy, Jim Timmins and Robert "Bowser" Norris pictured accepting an engraved plaque from representatives from Touched By Suicide (TBS Scotland) in appreciation for money raised at charity concerts in the Welfare Club.

The sum donated to TBS has reached £17,000. The plaque is now proudly displayed in the Welfare Club.

This year's fundraising concert planned for May will feature the best of local talent pitting their wits against their lifelong rivals from 'The Shotts-shire'.



'Like'
FauldhouseCDT
on Facebook

Contact us

If you are interested in finding out more about anything going on at The Hub, please contact us by phone on 01501 773 699, email lesley@fauldhouse.org.uk or pop in to see us.



Over the past few months there have been a number of thefts from motor vehicles, notably theft of tools from works vans. There continues to be thefts from storage sheds, particularly in rural areas, but less of an issue than in previous months. There have also been several vandalisms to motor vehicles.

There have been numerous youth calls, particularly in the area immediately surrounding the Partnership Centre, regarding youths congregating and causing disturbances. May I reassure local residents that the local Community Officers/Safer Neighbourhood Teams are aware and have been pro-actively patrolling these areas. Youth calls have decreased from October.

Your local Community police officer has also changed. Your new Community officer is myself, PC Graeme Johnston based at West Calder police station. If you have any issues you wish brought to my attention, I can be contacted by phone on 01506 871 218, or by email graeme.johnston@lbp.pnn.police.uk.

Next Issue

Our next issue of Fauldhouse Together is due for publication in June. If you wish to send us information for inclusion in our next issue, please contact Lesley by Friday 31 May.



Fauldhouse Music Festival 2013



This year's Fauldhouse Music Festival is planned for the end of May. We hope to have bands, local singers, workshops, a series of musical movies showing in The Hub and more. Many local venues in Fauldhouse will be taking part so look out for our publicity.

If you wish to take part in this year's festival or wish further details and information, please contact Lesley at The Hub, 10 Main Street. Tel: 01501 773 699/07429 663 276 or email lesley@fauldhouse.org.uk

Advertising

We are now able to offer advertising space to local businesses. Prices from £40.

If you are interested in placing an advert in 'Fauldhouse Together' or just wish to discuss your options, please contact Lesley by 31 May on 01501 773 699/07429 663 276, email: lesley@fauldhouse.org.uk or pop into The Hub, 10 Main Street, Fauldhouse.

The Sunlight (Alzheimer) Cafe

takes place on the last Thursday of every month
from 11.30am – 1.30pm

Dates for 2013

Thursday 28 February	Thursday 29 August
Thursday 28 March	Thursday 26 September
Thursday 25 April	Thursday 31 October
Thursday 30 May	Thursday 28 November
Thursday 27 June	Thursday 19 December
Thursday 25 July	

Lottery award

FCDT has been granted £10,000 by The Big Lottery's 'Investing in Ideas' to carry out a feasibility study to look at services for young people in Fauldhouse. FCDT wish to find out if there is a need or desire for a dedicated youth facility in the village. If you want to take part, please get in touch. Contact Julie Smith on 01501 773 699 or email julie@fauldhouse.org.uk

Blackburn, Seafield & District Credit Union

are at The Hub every Friday from 12noon – 2pm.

- **Free Internet Access**
- **Meeting Rooms** available for local/community groups & board meetings

Do you have an upcoming event?

If you would like your event to be mentioned in the next newsletter please email newsletter@fauldhouse.org.uk or contact Lesley on 07429 663 276.

Useful contacts

West Calder Police Station:
01506 871 218

Crimestoppers: 0800 111 555

Safety Advice from the Fire Brigade: 0800 169 0320 or communitysafety@lbfire.org.uk

Partnership Centre:
01501 773 000 or fpc@westlothian.gov.uk

West Lothian Council:
01506 280 000

Breich Valley Information Service: 01501 770 276

Doctors' Surgeries:
Dr Richie & Dr Jones:
01501 773 045
Breich Valley Practice:
01501 773 020
Community Health Reception:
01505 773 046

Dentist:
01501 773 032

Annual General Meeting

FCDT held their AGM on 12 November 2012. It was well attended and we now have three new members of our Board of Trustees. Akbar Ali, David Dodds and Siobhan Robertson bring our total of community representatives to nine.

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to those who attended the Inter-Denominational Remembrance Sunday Service on 11 November at the Fauldhouse War Memorial.

Over 250 villagers attended to honour those who gave their lives in the two World Wars and the more recent conflicts.

Photocopying

Photocopier and laminator available. We can laminate and copy full colour up to A3. A4 copies from 10p/copy.



Join the Fauldhouse Community Development Trust

Membership of the Fauldhouse Community Development Trust costs £1 (life membership). For that you can show your commitment to helping us deliver positive, sustainable improvements to our village. Whether your commitment extends to being simply a paid up supporter of the organisation or you want to get more involved in our activities, your membership is very important to us. Please complete the form and join up today.

I wish to join the Fauldhouse Community Development Trust and enclose my £1 membership fee.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer with the Fauldhouse Community Development Trust?

Yes/No

Postcode: _____

Would you be happy for us to contact you about any up and coming events?

Tel: _____

Yes/No