

FEDERATION SIGNS LEASE FOR NEW PREMISES



East Ayrshire North Communities Federation Ltd recently moved to new premises at 1 Titchfield Street, Kilmarnock. The new premises will allow the Federation to expand on the valuable services that are already provided. Located in Titchfield Street the Federation is now ideally placed within Kilmarnock Town Centre, with the new facility providing community access to a wide range of information and support including, in the future, information services intended to support the regeneration of Kilmarnock Town Centre.

Graham Piggott, Convenor of the East Ayrshire North Communities Federation said: *"The establishment of the Federation in the town centre is a major achievement and will provide many opportunities for both our Community Planning Partners and our Member Organisations. By planning and working together, the Federation will build on the commitment of our member organisations and will strive to develop ways of ensuring that local people can participate in the development of our area and communities."*

If your Community Group would like to display any literature in the Federation's Office please do not hesitate to contact us on 01563 572712 or alternatively email info@eancf.com.

For further information on the work of the East Ayrshire North Communities Federation, please contact us at the above number or visit our website at www.eancf.co.uk

EAST Ayrshire NORTH COMMUNITIES FEDERATION LTD LAUNCHES WEBSITE

East Ayrshire North Communities Federation Ltd (EANCF Ltd) recently launched its very own website. It will provide all our members with an up-to-date account of the activities in which the Federation is involved and links to other websites that we hope our members will find interesting.

You can check out our new website by logging onto:

www.eanconf.co.uk

We advise that you check the website regularly to see any updates that we have posted.

A copy of all newsletters will also be posted on the website.

If your community council/community organisation has an article about a project or an issue that they would like posted on our website, please contact the office and we will arrange to have your article published. In addition, if you would like your organisation's website linked to the Federation's website then please also contact the office.

EANCF Ltd staff can be contacted by email at:

Heather@eanconf.com
Jan@eanconf.com

If you have any enquires email: inbox@eanconf.com

Our current email address eanconf@btconnect.com will remain active at present.

STAFF CHANGES

As many of you will be aware, Pamela Littlejohn, Office Administrator has now left East Ayrshire North Communities Federation Limited. The Board of Directors and Federation Members would like to take this opportunity to thank Pamela for all her hard work during her time at the Federation and wish her all the best in the future.

Due to Pamela's departure, EANCF Ltd has now employed a new Office Administrator, Janet Mackie. Janet will now oversee the day-to-day running of the administration of the office and will be the main contact for any member who wishes any assistance.

Janet can be contacted by email at Jan@eanconf.com



KILMARNOCK SHOPMOBILITY PROJECT



Kilmarnock Shopmobility, which has now been in operation for over two years, aims to reduce the feeling of isolation and social exclusion felt by many disabled and infirm people. The service also gives the user the ability to access many areas which are at present too far away for them to reach by walking such as banks, post offices and GP Surgeries, or just enjoy a recreational visit for a coffee with friends.

With 366 registered members and an average of 280 bookings per month, Kilmarnock Shopmobility is going from strength to strength and is a recognised service throughout the town.

Based within Kilmarnock Bus Station, which is situated within the centre of the town, this **FREE** service is available to anyone who has difficulty going around the shops within Kilmarnock Town Centre.

A successful funding bid was submitted to Strathclyde Police's Well-Being Fund; the £500 that was donated from this fund will be used for aids and adaptations to the existing scooters to ensure that the service user has a more enjoyable shopping experience.

Kilmarnock Shopmobility has also received funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund to allow for an additional staff member to allow the Service to be open on a Saturday. The Saturday opening of Kilmarnock Shopmobility will commence on Saturday 29th November 2008.

Kilmarnock Shopmobility is located within Kilmarnock Bus Station,
Green Street, Kilmarnock and is open:

Monday to Friday from 10am until 3.30pm.
Saturdays (from 29th November) from 10am until 4pm.

If you would like further information on this **FREE** service contact
Danny Howley on 01563 541420.

THE FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Federation:

Kilmaurs Community Council
Heal the Earth Ayrshire
Kilmarnock Fellowship of Churches
Co-opted member Mr Peter Irons, North West Youth Project
Darvel & District Community Council

SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM OUR NEW OFFICE

Now that we are in our new office in Titchfield Street, the range of services that we offer our members and Voluntary Groups based in the north of East Ayrshire has expanded to include an IT suite and photocopying facilities.

The IT suite is open to all members and any voluntary group within the north of East Ayrshire which requires access to a computer and the Internet. This service is FREE and is available between 10am until 3pm. Anyone who is not computer literate and perhaps not too confident in using computers can get support from our staff.

Although the use of the IT suite is FREE there is a small charge for paper and printing.

Black and white photocopying facilities are also available, again with only a small charge for paper used. For a full list of the services provided and associated costs please contact the office for further details.

We are also offering our premises (after office hours) to any community groups for meetings, training and so on.

If you are interested in any of these services
please call Heather or Jan on 01563 572712.

HOW EANCF LTD COULD HELP YOU

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA TO IMPROVE THE AREA IN WHICH YOU LIVE?

EANCF Ltd could assist in helping your idea become a reality. Working in partnership with EANCF Ltd could enhance your prospects of gaining vital funding to ensure that your project is successful and benefits the whole community.

If you struggle with funding applications, Project Development Worker, Heather Baillie, can assist your organisation in completing them or help you identify possible funding streams for your project.

So, if you have an idea on how to make an improvement in your community and would like further information on how EANCF Ltd could assist your project, please contact Heather at the EANCF Ltd Office on 01563 572712 or alternatively email your query to heather@eancf.com.

A WORD FROM COUNCILLOR REID



The community and voluntary sectors are active within communities across East Ayrshire and make a significant difference to the lives of its residents.

East Ayrshire Community Planning Partners value the contribution and efforts of individuals and groups living and working in the local community. To recognise the commitment and contribution of these individuals and groups, Community Planning Partners will host a Community Planning Awards Ceremony in March 2009. The event will be publicised in the near future and you will be given a chance to nominate a local individual or organisation that you believe is making a significant contribution to your community.

I would encourage you to take the opportunity to highlight the excellent work which can be seen in communities across East Ayrshire and look forward to receiving a wealth of nominations.

Councillor Douglas Reid
Leader of East Ayrshire Council and Chair of Community Planning

SHOPMOBILITY LAUNCHES WEBSITE

Kilmarnock Shopmobility recently launched its website, which provides vital information on how to register to become a shopmobility service user and opening times for the service.

For further information on Kilmarnock Shopmobility please log onto:

WWW.KILMARNOCKSHOPMOBILITY.CO.UK

Supported By



Working in Partnership with



FEDERATION'S NEW VEHICLE

The Federation's vehicle is available to any member who requires it to undertake the work of the Federation or to simply take to an event to advertise the Federation's work.

Contact Jan or Heather for availability on 01563 572712.

FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

Approximately £4.6 million per year over the next three years have been allocated to East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership from the Scottish Government's new Fairer Scotland Fund.

The new Fund provides the local Community Planning Partnership with continued investment to tackle high level priorities for the area in respect of regenerating the most disadvantaged communities; improving the life choices of individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage; and improving employability, particularly for young people and other hard to reach groups.

At its meeting of 10 June 2008, the Community Planning Partnership Board agreed to utilise Fairer Scotland Fund resources to support over forty services and initiatives, which will effectively contribute to tackling poverty and deprivation in the local area over the coming three years, including:

Kilmarnock Shopmobility – to expand Kilmarnock Shopmobility, which offers a free town centre service for anyone with a mobility problem, by providing a part-time member of staff to allow the service to operate on a Saturday.

New Sporting Futures – to further develop sports related programmes that provide positive and attractive alternatives to alcohol and drug misuse for young people, which currently include Premier Night Leagues, StreetSport Express and StreetSport Cages.

Additional Police Resources - to continue to provide 'Additional Police Resources' across the local authority area, in particular, in the most disadvantaged communities. Over the next three years, the funds will be utilised to:

- establish a dedicated community policing team in the north-west area of Kilmarnock, which will provide a high visibility police presence locally and improve police accessibility and responsiveness to the concerns of the local community;
- allow the continuation of a targeted programme of additional policing activity through a combination of high visibility uniform patrols and plain clothed operations in disadvantaged communities across East Ayrshire; and
- expand the 'Campus Cop' initiative, which provides support for pupils, teachers and the community to tackle some of the serious concerns around community safety and antisocial behaviour.

East Ayrshire Credit Union – to further develop activity to provide easily accessible savings schemes and allow members to borrow at reasonable rates.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NUISANCE

East Ayrshire Council is aware of the problems which neighbourhood nuisance and antisocial behaviour can create and is committed to taking, whenever possible, early and effective action to prevent instances of these types of behaviour escalating. By taking action and providing you with the following information the Council hopes to ensure that everyone has the right to enjoy his or her home in peace.

What is Neighbourhood Nuisance?

The term 'Nuisance' is applied to various types of conduct, albeit often annoying which are less serious than anti-social behaviour, for example, lack of control over pets, lack of stair cleaning, untidy gardens, litter and minor verbal harassment.

Can the Council take action against everyone responsible for neighbourhood nuisance?

Yes. The Council has powers under the Housing (Scotland) Acts to investigate and take action against any person committing any form of neighbourhood nuisance, regardless of their tenure.

What should I do if I am being troubled by neighbour nuisance?

Perhaps the first thing to consider is that your neighbour may not be aware that his/her actions are causing a nuisance. If this is the case, you may be able to resolve the problem by simply speaking to your neighbour and drawing their attention to the matter in a tactful manner. Generally this is the best approach to neighbour nuisance as the problem can be quickly resolved and you still maintain a good relationship with your neighbour. However, we do realise that there will be instances where this form of approach will not work or will be impractical.

How to report Neighbourhood Nuisance.

There are several ways that Antisocial behaviour can be reported.

- Through the Antisocial Behaviour Service 01563 576843. (Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri-9am-4pm) or the out of hours service 0845 724 0000
- Through East Ayrshire Council Local Offices including your local Housing Office.
- Through East Ayrshire Council website www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk.
- Through East Ayrshire Council Community Warden Scheme 01563 576843.



Neighbourhood Services
Housing Service

PROJECTS

NEW FARM LOCH

YOUTH PROJECT

Due to an administration error, our previous application to the Awards for All programme for the Feasibility Study for New Farm Loch has had to be resubmitted. The application will now be fast tracked and we should hopefully have a decision on the application within eight weeks. If EANCF Ltd is successful in this funding bid, a Feasibility Study will be carried out within the New Farm Loch area to explore the need for a purpose built Youth Centre. The result from the Feasibility Study will allow the Federation and New Farm Loch Community Council to develop a range of local activities and help to build a stronger more active community.

NEW FARM LOCH @ 40

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2008-09

The following events will be held as part of the 40th Birthday Celebrations of New Farm Loch:

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving—for the lives of departed family members and friends. Sunday 2nd November 2008 at 4pm in St. Matthew's Church.

Tuesday Bingo—Tuesday 25th November will be a special night with prizes galore, the programme starts at 7.30 in the New Farm Loch Community Centre, Barclay Drive.

The New Farm Loch at 40 celebrations will close with a community service of Thanksgiving in St Kentigern's Church on Sunday 19th April 2009 at 3pm and a Buffet Dance in the Community Centre on 9th May 2009. For further information on the 40th Birthday Celebrations please contact Archie Pryce on 01563 526610.



FENWICK WEAVERS

The village of Fenwick is home to the first documented co-operative society in the world, which was established in 1761. In 2008, the Fenwick Weavers Co-operative was set up to promote the heritage of Fenwick and provide a fitting and lasting commemoration to the original weavers. The organisation also aims to uphold the ethos of the co-operative movement.

The Co-operative has subsequently appointed Jura Consultants to look into the feasibility of establishing a visitors' centre in Fenwick, which would tell the story of the village and the Fenwick Weavers Co-operative. The study will also consider the possibility of incorporating additional community facilities into the building.

For further information on the Fenwick Weavers Co-operative email
john_mcfadzean04@yahoo.co.uk

FENWICK PLAYPARK

In partnership with Fenwick Community Council, EANCF Ltd, has been raising funds to provide the residents of Fenwick with an up-to-date children's playground. The project aims to provide the young people in Fenwick with a purpose built playground which will ensure that they have a healthier start in life and divert them from anti-social behaviour.

As a recreational area, the playground will provide the young people with more freedom, and provide socialising opportunities, thereby promoting social inclusion and providing a safer environment for the young people of Fenwick.

If you would like further information on this project please contact
Heather on 01563 572712.

HEAL THE EARTH AYRSHIRE PLASTIC BAG CAMPAIGN

Heal the Earth Ayrshire was established as a voice for green issues in Kilmarnock. It has links with EANCF Ltd, Local Community Planning Forums and Community Councils and also networks with other local groups and individuals with a public partnership focus.

New developments are underway. In the spirit of regeneration, Heal the Earth has launched a project to promote Kilmarnock as the FIRST PLASTIC BAG FREE TOWN IN AYRSHIRE and if successful, it will be one of the few places in Scotland to achieve this status, Dunoon being the first. It is expected that this achievement will raise the profile of the town, increase the sense of public pride, and represent a high accolade in environmental terms. It is also expected to make a contribution to reducing litter and waste generally.

Chairperson Jan Sinclair states: "We are happy that this project has received positive support from Provost Young and East Ayrshire Councillors as well as members of EANCF." She also stated that: "We are keen to involve the whole community, both retailers and the general public - in taking personal responsibility for changing to non-plastic sustainable and durable bags." She continued "We feel that this is a venture in which the community as a whole will achieve success—and every single action from every individual is valuable and contributes to that success."

By becoming plastic-bag free, Kilmarnock alone will be saving at least 600,000 bags a month from causing further damage. Jenny Brown Secretary said: "It is a very worthwhile task to achieve freedom from plastic bags as a community and is something we can be proud of."

For further information on the Plastic Bag Campaign email healtheearth@lycos.co.uk



PICK A PARK INITIATIVE

'Pick a Park' is an East Ayrshire Council initiative established in June 2008, which invites local groups, businesses and individuals to join in a litter clean up of parks within the Council Area. These events have been successful in not only removing litter and enhancing the local areas, but also in helping to develop community spirit.

East Ayrshire Council provides full support, including gloves, litter bags and Hi-Vis Vests. Tea and Coffee is also provided on the day.

Although the initiative is now finished for the winter, it will recommence in the New Year. Anyone who has an area in mind within their local community should contact Felix Wright on 01563 554071 or email felix.wright@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

HEAL THE EARTH AYRSHIRE CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Plans for Heal the Earth Ayrshire in 2009 include a Community Garden initiative situated in the Kay Park, Kilmarnock which is presently undergoing a facelift in preparation for the official opening of the new Burns Monument Centre.

Jan Sinclair, Chairperson, commented "The theme or exact location has not yet been decided. However, a conservation garden growing plants that are endangered due to climate change and plants which are helpful to bees; and a Burns theme to protect both plants and preserve the Burns connection with Kilmarnock, are some ideas that are being considered. What is important is that it is a project created, shared and cared for by the community.

The other green fingered project that the green group is planning for 2009 is a Garden Share Scheme. This will link those who would like an allotment to grow organic vegetables with those who have too much garden space or need help with its cultivation.

Both projects are co-operative community ventures and both offer a positive contribution to helping the environment. Both also depend on keen gardeners and those interested in conservation to come forward and work together.

If you are interested in these projects please contact Jan Sinclair on 01563 520904 or Jenny Brown on 01563 543533.



Victim Support East Ayrshire

Crime Hurts... Victim Support Cares.



Victim Support East Ayrshire is a voluntary organisation which aims to provide practical and emotional support in the aftermath of crime. No one expects or plans to be the victim of a crime, yet it can happen to anyone and everyone reacts differently – some may have immediate reactions, while others may not display anything for weeks or months. We also “refer on” to other organisations to complement and enhance our support. Children are also affected by crime and often find it difficult to talk about their feelings. At Victim Support we offer support to people of all ages.

Wendy Hood, Assistant Co-ordinator and
Doug Whitton, Area Co-ordinator in the Victim Support East Ayrshire Office

People come to Victim Support from a number of sources. Most of our referrals come from the Police with the remainder coming from Social Services, Housing, GPs and Self-referral. Last year, we worked with 2,000 victims of crime in East Ayrshire.

Our service offers a choice of telephone support, home visits or office appointments, whichever suits best. We are only a phone call away and our highly trained volunteers will be able to assist.

We also have a court-based service to provide information and assistance to witnesses going to court. There, our trained volunteers can offer information on court procedures and can arrange court familiarisation visits to provide additional support at a vulnerable time in people’s lives.

With Victim Support, you are able to talk about your feelings in a confidential and non-judgemental setting, without having to take on board the feelings and reactions of loved ones or friends.

Further information can be found at: www.victimsupportsco.org.uk
or telephone Doug or Wendy at Victim Support East Ayrshire on: 01563 540252.

EAST AYRSHIRE CHURCHES HOMELESSNESS ACTION (EACHa)

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa) is an ecumenical registered charity which was formed in 2005. EACHa provides Well-Being and Children's packs to people and families experiencing homelessness in East Ayrshire.

Over 1,300 households, including 380 families with children, presented to the local authority within the last twelve months as a result of homelessness. There are many reasons why people present as homeless. Unemployment, ill health, leaving an institution and breakdown in relationships are among the reasons why people may find themselves homeless.

In Scotland over 30% of all homeless people are under 16!!

People of all ages and backgrounds can become homeless, including children. Homelessness is a traumatic experience for anyone and especially for a child who has had to leave home with a parent who is escaping violence. Well-Being and Children's packs go a long way to helping local homeless people.

Well-Being Packs include:

Shower Gel
Shampoo & Conditioner
Roll-on deodorant
Hair Brush
Face Cloth
Sponge
Toilet Bag
Hand Towel
Nail Brush & Emery Boards
Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Children's Packs (varies on age group) can include

Pram Toy, Cuddly Toy, Babies Rattle
Activity Book, Crayons, Toy Cars, Doll
Musical Instruments, Building Blocks
Bat and Ball, Skittles, Skipping Ropes
Spell & Learn Activity Books, Story Books
Football/Rugby Ball, Cricket Bat & Ball
Tennis Racket, Playing Cards, Board Games
Art materials, Jigsaws, Puzzle/Quiz Books
Reading Books, Pens and Paper
Bath Toys, Musical wind-up toy

If you would like to donate any of the above items, all we ask is that all donations are new and, where applicable, still in the packaging. Please deliver items to:

Laigh West High Kirk
John Dickie Street
Kilmarnock

Opening times are 12 noon to 2pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

EAST AYRSHIRE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM SURGERIES

PILOT PROJECT FOR 2009

East Ayrshire Public Partnership Forum (PPF) has been very successful so far in building the PPF in East Ayrshire. The PPF enables the people of East Ayrshire to have their say about health and gives them the opportunity to be involved in shaping the future of local health care in East Ayrshire. Involving the public in their care and treatment is now an important part of how services are moving forward and helps local health providers meet the public's needs.

To further enable us to gather your views on local health care services and to enable more people to become involved with the PPF, we intend to bring PPF surgeries to your locality. Surgeries will be held in local community centres or possibly local halls or wherever we can hire a room in your locality.

This will be a pilot project and its continuation will depend on how successful it is deemed to be after the initial six months.

The PPF surgeries will provide a selection of health information for you to access. If we do not have the information that you are seeking, we will take your details and endeavour to access it and send it to you. You will have the opportunity to discuss local health care topics with our friendly team. The team who will staff the PPF surgeries will be made up of members of the public who are currently volunteers on our PPF core group. If you have suggestions to improve your local health care services our team will bring those suggestions to our core group meetings where discussion around those suggestions will take place to ascertain how best to deal with them. In all of these cases, you will be kept informed of progress and if, for any reason, your suggestion cannot be taken forward you will be given a full explanation as to why this is.

We intend to hold our first PPF surgery at New Cumnock in January 2009. Look out for posters and press releases which will give information on the venue and times. February 2009 will see us in Stewarton.

We hope to hold a surgery in a different town or village one day each month. We will also alternate between the North and South of East Ayrshire.

Look out for our posters or adverts in local news papers and try not to miss this opportunity for you to have your say!

GUEST ARTICLE

A Community Organisation will be invited to contribute to each newsletter. If you have something you want to share and include in our newsletter please contact Jan or Heather on 01563 572712.

THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

Family Support Project

A registered Scottish Charity SCO31992 Company Registration Number 272208
www.lighthouse-foundation.co.uk

You don't need to be an addict to be affected by drugs or alcohol

We support families in Ayrshire who have a family member addicted to drugs/alcohol. We provide support by offering the following services **FREE**:

Adult Services

Counselling
Group Work
Coffee Mornings
Relaxation Therapies
Respite (Fee applies)
Advice & Information
Advocacy
Helpdesk at HMP Kilmarnock

Children's Services

Counselling
Groups
Respite Trips
Activities

Addiction is a modern day plague and in most cases families and children living with someone else's addiction can feel helpless. Our aim is to try to alleviate this helplessness.

CHILD/ADOLESCENT THERAPY SERVICE



At the Lighthouse Foundation, we believe the emotional, physical and psychological well being of the child is paramount. Unlike adults, children can lack the emotional language to express their feelings.

Within the chaos created by addiction, children can become invisible; their distress unseen and their voices unheard. The results may include children internalising their experiences, leaving them feeling isolated, confused, frightened or frustrated and angry.

The impact for children who have witnessed or experienced parental addiction can never be underestimated. We at the Lighthouse Foundation work to provide children with a safe therapeutic environment where they can begin to make sense of their experiences.



HELPSKAT HMP KILMARNOCK

Situated at 'outside visits' in Bowhouse Prison, although we are not part of the prison service. We are an Independent charity offering help and support to families. We are here to offer help and experience if you are visiting a family member in prison. We have created a child/adult friendly environment with lots of competitions and activities for the children.

THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION DRUG AWARENESS PROJECT STOP DRUGS

The **STOP** drugs project provides drug awareness information sessions across Ayrshire. Designed for families, services and community groups, we offer information on:

- Drug Awareness
- Legislation
- Overdose Prevention
- First Aid Demonstration

For further information on the services that the Lighthouse Foundation offer, please contact us on 01563 521343 or email lighthousekillie@aol.com



NORTHWEST YOUTH PROJECT

Northwest Youth Project has been operating for over 15 years for the young people of Northwest Kilmarnock aged between 5 and 25 years old. The Project aims to provide a comfortable and well-equipped Centre which maintains a high level of health and safety. The Project Staff provide helpful and supportive supervision within a warm and encouraging environment.

The programmes are devised, with members' input, to ensure that young people have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience while attending the Centre.

The services we provide include:

- A range of Educational and Recreational Activities
- ICT Facilities and Internet Access
- Holiday Play Schemes
- Information and Advice

Plus Much, Much, More.....

For further information on the Services provided by Northwest Youth Project contact Peter Irons on 01563 537020.



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A Registered Scottish Charity SCO38345

East Ayrshire North Communities Federation Limited

Supported by the Fairer Scotland Fund—Scottish Government Funding

