



Helensburgh Community Hub – CPG update February 2024

Reading Minds – Helensburgh’s Book Festival

Following the success of last year’s pilot (funded through the SG Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund), which was attended by more than 200 people, we are continuing this collaboration with Jean’s Bothy and H&L Carers Centre. The second Helensburgh Book Festival will take place from 22-24 March at the three organisation’s venues.

This year we have secured Scottish Book Trust Live Literature funding and are able to offer a wider range of events, including two school events (at Hermitage Academy and Colgrain Primary) and a weekend session aimed at young people.

Booking is through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/helensburgh-book-festival-59725571793> and hard copy programmes are available at various locations in Helensburgh.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

We now have 157 Helensburgh children registered and we have been chosen as one of four Scottish programmes to be part of an exhibition in the Scottish Parliament being hosted by The Dollywood Foundation in March.

Further Reading for Pleasure related activity

We hosted a pre-Christmas visit for Hermitage Primary P4s who played games in the hall and chose books in the Book Nook.

We are working with NHS staff from the School Health and Wellbeing Pathway team and Parklands bus monitors to provide them with appropriate books for various uses.

Working in partnership with Helensburgh Writers’ Workshop we are starting a weekly Young Writers’ Workshop in the Hub from mid-February.

Volunteers

The Hub now has more than 30 volunteers who support us with the Book Nook, crafting sessions, the website and organisational governance through our volunteer Board. To thank them we hosted them at The Tower for a special screening of the Dolly Parton classic 9 to 5. We are interested in collaborating with other organisations to repeat last year’s highly successful Volunteers’ Week Scotland event that was organised by the Hub, Visiting Friends and photographer Kath Polley.

Like many community organisations we rely on the great work of our volunteers and again like many other groups we always need to recruit more. There is a need to better support volunteering across Helensburgh and Lomond with signposting, recruitment, management and recognition.

Hub Garden

We badly need help to regenerate the garden in front of the Hub, and there are other community groups with outside spaces that need maintenance (eg Recovery Cafe) so we would like to collaborate with others to try and create a funded gardening project that could benefit organisations across Helensburgh and Lomond.

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