

AKA
The Annexe!



Wellbeing on your doorstep

**Annexe
Communities**

PARTICK
HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

ANNUAL

REPORT

2025-26

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OUR STORY SO FAR

Our Background

Annexe Communities began life as Partick Community Association in 1986. Residents campaigned and secured the lease of The Annexe, a former school building in Stewartville Street in 1998 - from Glasgow City Council. In 2000 the charity established a thriving and enterprising Healthy Living Centre. Known locally as 'The Annexe' – a community-led charity.

1987

Registered as a charity:

PARTICK COMMUNITY ASSOC



Our Vision

A Glasgow where people are empowered and inspired to be healthy and flourish.

Our Mission

To connect and enable people to develop their potential.

Our Priorities

- To create **opportunities** for local groups and people to come together - to discuss local needs and get involved in shaping local community activity;
- To work with people experiencing **social isolation or poor health** to raise their aspirations, make informed lifestyle choices and reconnect with community life;
- To **support local volunteers**, to build their capacity to make a positive difference in their lives and communities

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS



This has been another eventful and challenging year for the entire **Annexe communities**.

The process of buying the Annexe was finally completed. Well done and thank you to everyone who helped make this a success. **The Annexe will now always be a community facility, serving the local community.**

We have faced serious financial issues this year, particularly the failure to secure funding from Glasgow City Council for the next three years. This was a major setback for us. However, the community came together, with three local councillors attending a meeting with centre users. It was made clear that the Annexe is an essential part of the community. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and showed their support.

Let Partick Flourish came to an end in September 2025. Led by **Jane Cowie**, the project supported smaller groups to secure funding. I would like to thank Jane for all her hard work and commitment and wish her all the very best for the next chapter of her life.

Social Prescribing was an extremely successful project, ably run by **Sandra MacDowell**. It had a positive impact on vulnerable members of the community, increasing confidence and helping many clients connect with local groups.

The **Partick and Thornwood Ideas Fund** was also due to finish at the end of March. The project allowed groups to apply for funding, with the local community voting on the outcome - local democracy in action. Thankfully, both projects received a **one-year extension** at the last moment. Hopefully, further funding will become available so this much-needed support can continue.

Colin Macpherson, who was involved in the Participatory Budgeting project, left the organisation in March. I would like to thank Colin for his hard work and commitment and wish him every success for the future.

The **cafe** continues to provide a safe and welcoming place for the community to meet and enjoy a healthy, nutritious meal.

Our Annexe groups continue to go from strength to strength. Each year, we like to highlight the work of a couple of groups and the valuable contribution they make within the wider community.

Partick Pluckers continue to visit care homes and take part in local events, while **Knit and Natter** has connected with Knitting for World Peace. Both groups promote the skills of Annexe groups within the wider community. I would like to thank them for their commitment.

In closing, I would like to thank all our staff, volunteers, community members and partners who continue to support the Annexe. We couldn't do it without you!

Next year will no doubt present new challenges. However, I am confident that with your help and commitment, we will continue to thrive.

Cathie Connelly,
Annexe Board Chairperson



THE ANNEXE CAFE

Summary

The **Community Café** continues to be at the heart of the Annexe, welcoming both new visitors and regulars throughout the year. It remains an important part of the centre, often being the first place people visit when they come to the Annexe. Under the guidance of **Tony, our dedicated cook**, we continue to provide fresh, nutritious meals that bring people together. **Tony** is supported by a fantastic team of volunteer café assistants, who help ensure the café remains a warm and welcoming space for everyone.

The ongoing rise in **food and energy costs** continues to put pressure on the café but with the support of the **Truemark Trust**, we have been able to meet essential running costs and continue providing this valuable resource to the **community**.



Our Lunch Club continues to offer great value, with a nutritious **three-course meal for just £6**. Thanks to the **James T Howard Charitable Trust**, we provided **150 free lunch vouchers** this year to support those in need.

The café remains a popular place to meet and socialise, with many also taking meals home. Tony's **Farmers Veg Soup** remains a firm favourite, while our varied menu keeps customers coming back.



300

estimated individual
customers access cafe
this year

60

Folk enjoyed the social
cafe during 2025/26

4

Different volunteers helped
in the cafe throughout the
year



Social Cafe

Further Info

Our café continues to focus on sustainability and affordability through our participation in the **FareShare food surplus scheme**. By making use of good-quality, in-date surplus food, we help reduce food costs while providing healthy, affordable meals to our community. We also continue to work with the **Neighbourly scheme** and our local **Lidl**. Our dedicated volunteer collects surplus food regularly, helping to prevent good food from going to landfill. The food is used for café meals, group refreshments and is also available for local residents to collect—a **real win-win for the community**.

Our Free Monday **Social Café** continues to be an important part of community engagement. It provides a **welcoming space** for newcomers to meet others, enjoy a warm drink and find out more about **what is happening at the Annexe**. Whether joining an activity, having a chat or simply enjoying a cup of tea, it remains a friendly and accessible **starting point** for anyone new to the Annexe.



“Great social cafe, my son with special needs loves it. We are made very welcome, love it!”

“Cafe food is very tasty it beats cooking at home and very cost effective”



Fareshare surplus - COL group

going→
ZERO
WASTE



Diamond Art

Feedback from Cafe/Social cafe:

“Great place to meet nice people. A real pick-me-up to come in on a Monday morning and be greeted with friendly, smiling faces”

Supported by funding from
Truemark Trust

ANNEXE FACILITIES



Summary

Our weekly and seasonal programmes at the Annexe include a range of popular free or subsidised classes and activities. Some are volunteer-led and others are supported by different funders. Activities during 2025/26 included:

Exercise: Chair and Gentle Yoga, Jazzercise and Line Dancing

Creative: Westend Warblers Community Choir, Partick Pluckers Ukulele Group, Annexe Art and Stewartville Strummers Guitar Group

Social: Knit and Natter, Circle Dancing Group, Social Café, Friendship Group and Partick phoenix walking group

Wellbeing: Dreams & Aspirations Group, Branching Out, Healthy Cooking on a Budget, Cost of Living Support Group and Freezer Fridays

Facilities Hire

When the Annexe is not used for our own activities, rooms are hired out to generate an income. Rooms were mainly hired for meetings, training, music workshops, events and sport therapies.

28

Hours of activities per week on average

20

Different activities offered

3

Different funders contributed to cost of activities

The Annexe is a charitable social enterprise and raises funds from room hire, cafe sales and donations. Thanks to all who donate and raise funds to help towards core building costs!

2025/26

FINANCE



We continue to strive for financial stability by generating income through café & rental and applying for charitable grants and donations.

Income

- Annual turnover in 2025-26 was **£494,820** (£330,181 in 2024-25)
- **£776,174** funds carried forward this year including **£616,885** fixed assets
- We raised **£21,523** from donations
- We managed grants totalling **£409,684**
- We generated **£50,399** from trading activities (café, room rental and courses)
- Net Surplus: **£189,971** (large surplus due to building purchase grant – actual deficit: **£58,529**)

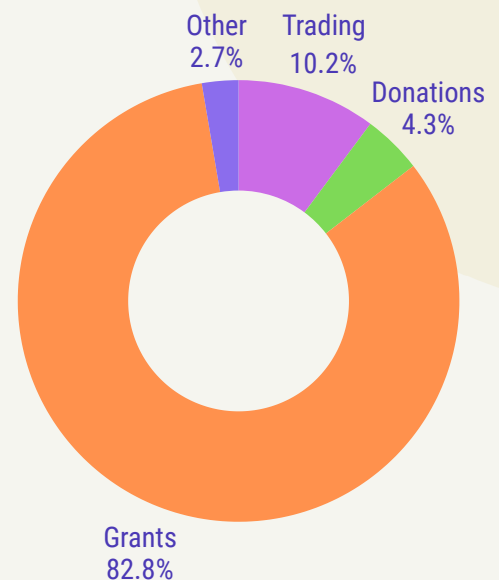
Expenditure

- Direct costs of charitable activities in 2025-26 was **£304,849**
 - Including **£189,332** on staff costs: wages, NI and pensions
 - We are committed to paying the **Real Living Wage**.
 - Annexe had 10 staff and a further 6 specialist sessional staff in 2025/26.

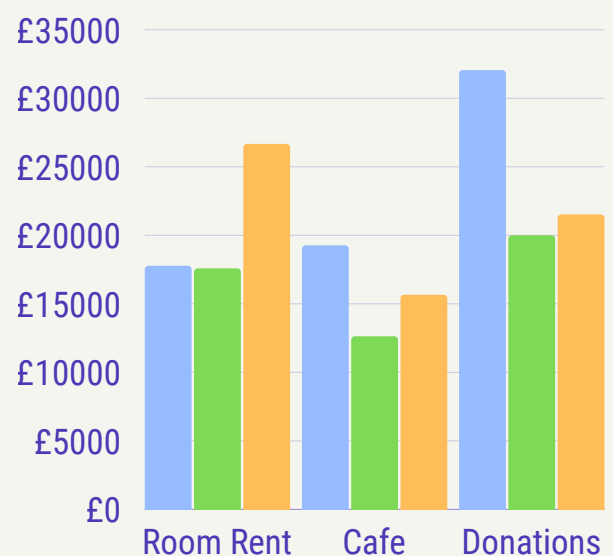
Plans for 2026-27

- Develop & deliver **Activities and Services** include new fundings
- Maximise income from **room rentals**
- Monitor & Improve the **Energy Efficiency Measures**

Income source:



Income comparison: past 3 years:



SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

Summary

Annexe Social Prescribing Programme offers support to individuals for a period of 3 months or longer if required. This involves meeting the individual's needs to **improve their health and wellbeing** resulting in being more socially connected. Referrals are still predominantly received from GP's plus other health professionals and DWP Partick Jobcentre along with other organisations such as Partick Housing Association, Riverside Community Mental Health Team and Shawpark Resource Centre.

Anyone referred automatically becomes a **member of the Annexe** and can enjoy all of the activities we have to offer. Although some people require support to access services outwith e.g. U3A, Enable Works, Home Energy Scotland, SWG3, Golden Generation, The coach House Trust, Lifelink plus many more...



92

People referred

49

SP clients accessed
Annexe activities

41

Services accessed
outwith Annexe

Stats for 2025/26



Friendship Group

“ SP gave me the confidence to move on and I have made so many friends, it's changed my life ”



First Aid Training

SP Case study

Client (A) suspects she may have undiagnosed autism, therefore introduced to **Adult Neurodivergent Group – Differabled**.

Referred to **Lifelink** where she undertook **Boosting Self-esteem and Building Confidence wellbeing courses**. Client now engages regularly with structured activities, is receiving **mental health support** and feels part of a group where everyone has similar issues. She now has a much more **positive outlook** on her future.



Open Top Bus Tour

“SP is a very necessary void that’s being filled. I’m clinically depressed but not ill enough to get help as I’m considered “high functioning”.

My confidence is zero a lot of the time. The fact that you have introduced me to things and even come with me has been so helpful as I get anxious and feel out of place. So, I feel this is the most beneficial thing that’s happened to me and has helped me in a way that the doctor, CPN and psychiatrist haven’t been able to do.



SP Clients

“I now feel more relaxed having my benefits and bus pass sorted out, these were things I just didn’t know how to deal with myself”

“I enjoyed the cooking class making dinner and friends who also came along”



Healthy Cooking Class

Funded by Scottish Government - Investing in Communities Fund



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



PARTICK &
THORNWOOD
IDEAS FUND

Summary

Partick and Thornwood Ideas Fund is a Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiative funded by the Scottish Government Investing in Communities fund. **PB is a democratic way for local people to have a direct say on how public money is spent in their community.**

Residents can apply to fund an idea that will benefit the local area. Ideas are limitless but must benefit the local community. **Ideas are put to public vote** and those with most votes get funding



Two rounds of funding went to public vote during 2025-26. A total of **£18,084**, was disbursed to 22 **local community benefit ideas**.

Grants awarded in 2025-26 ranged from **£350 to £1000**

Community benefit ideas included: Elie street nursery, social cafe trip, creative art sessions, knitting group, walking group, community open day, partick film festival, national autistic society local group, community christmas meal, support to local filmmaker and more...



Meet the Ideas - PB Event



Friends of Dowanhill Park Event



Mansfield Park Basketball Players

Project Statistics:

26

Projects applied



1601

Volunteer hours contributed



22

Projects Funded

“ **National Autistic society attendee** - Thanks for bringing this to our area. Really interesting. I am delighted to learn there is a new Parents & Carers group in Partick I've signed up to come along to that. ”

“ **Mind & Draw** - My kids love art so we would come back again if these kind of events are on ”



Autism Awareness Event

“ **Knit & Natter group** - Good company and always a laugh. Makes me get out even if weather is bad, everyone made to feel welcome ”

Funded by Scottish Government - Investing in Communities Fund



LET PARTICK FLOURISH PROJECT

Summary

Let Partick Flourish entered the final six months of its two-year project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland. LPF staff and volunteers continued to support free local community events, working with partners to bring people together and celebrate important local milestones, including Glasgow's 850th anniversary, Partick Housing Association's 50th anniversary and Thornwood Primary School's 125th anniversary. The Cost of Living Support Group and Freezer Friday Service continued to provide weekly food support, with volunteers also securing participatory budgeting funding to support a summer group trip. Through Communiversity, 15 local people completed training and went on to host workshops in the Annexe, putting their new skills into practice. Cycling UK, Partick Housing Association and local Dynamo Bike Shop supported a further 13 local people with new bikes and accessories, encouraging cycling and active travel in the community. We are grateful to our staff, volunteers, partners and funders for their continued support.



“This is the best job I have had in my University career as I can see we are actually helping people and not just dealing with data.” - Communiversity



Waverly Trip

I love the waverly, I have never been on it before, what a trip thank you! - COL member



Celebrating 850 years of Glasgow at Plot open day

Other Activities

Communiversy - worked with the University of Glasgow on four workshops, speaking with local people from harder-to-reach groups, including older men, BME communities and single parents.

Neighbourly Scheme - helped us rescue good food from local Lidl, Sainsbury's and Pret A Manger stores, keeping it out of landfill and sharing it with people who needed it. Thank you!

Let Partick Flourish - artist Michaela created a colourful "Coat of Arms" capturing the project's activities and developed the new Let Everyone Flourish logo.



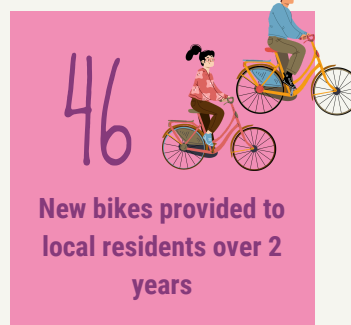
Volunteers sprucing up Partick

The Cost of Living Support Group and Freezer Friday - continued thanks to further support from the Hugh Fraser Foundation, Sainsbury's and generous local donors. A huge thank you to all our volunteers and supporters!

Dreams and Aspirations - worked with Professor Phil from the University of Glasgow to explore child poverty and the barriers people face when returning to the job market.

“ Looks like rain never stopped anyone having a great fun day. Brilliant times always better when everyone gets together and share their learned experience and just enjoy life together with friends - Local resident at celebration event ”

“ I can go cycling now at work with my recovery clients thanks to my brand new bike. Think my last new bike was a chipper back in 70's - Local Resident ”



“ Thankyou for showing me the Lidl's can collecting vouchers, now I never go hungry as I just go out & collect cans and recycle them, get voucher and buy food for myself and my mate - Freezer Friday member ”



ROBERTSON TRUST ONWARDS & UPWARDS PROJECT



Funded by **Robertsons Trust**, Onwards and Upwards works with and mentors **volunteers** to grow their individual volunteering pathways, helping to develop suitable roles that they would be interested in delivering in the community. This includes organising **PVG certification, suitable accredited training courses and opportunities** to gain practical experience and develop skills.

The **Onwards & Upwards** project continues to collaborate with other local and Annexe projects to recruit and support volunteers on their individual or group pathways, helping them to develop skills and increase their **employability**.



Communiversality Volunteers

The various roles and **opportunities** undertaken have contributed to improved mental and physical health, reduced isolation and helped individuals develop skills, confidence and new friendships.

Volunteers feel more valued and connected to their **community**, while their contributions help strengthen local community capacity.

Volunteer peer researchers with **Communiversality** successfully completed their research training and celebrated with an end-of-project party at the Annexe. Awards were presented by Nav from "Still Game"! Dr Tracy Ibbotson commented on all the good work:

"Thank you so much for your amazing work in planning the workshops. Your commitment, ideas, and enthusiasm have been incredible—and we truly hadn't dared to hope for such a strong and passionate response from everyone!"



30

Volunteers
supported

200

Food boxes
packed &
delivered

8

Different
trainings
undertaken



Cost of Living Volunteers

Further Info

Volunteers got involved in the following tasks and roles:

- Festive Boxes for families
- Cafe Assistants
- Reception Assistants
- Community Peer Research
- Events Assistants
- First Aid Tutor
- Arts Tutor
- PVG Certification
- Cost of Living Group
- Freezer Friday's
- Guitar Group
- Cooking Class Assistant



“ Just going with the flow. I've enjoyed getting involved. Everyone is so nice friendly, made me feel at ease. Thank you for the opportunity to volunteer. I appreciate it ”

“ My main reason for volunteering is to give back what I got out of the Annexe. I wasn't in a good place the first time I walked through the doors of the Annexe ... I've come a long way thanks to them ”



Woodworking Session



Volunteer packing crew



Xmas Food boxes



Bigger Partick Picnic

“ The Annexe is invaluable to the community it serves. I get pleasure and satisfaction in my role as a volunteer ”

Funder:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Annexe's success is built on the dedication and hard work of our incredible team - both staff and volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without your ongoing support. To everyone who contributed their time and energy this year, including our board members, we extend a huge thank you for your commitment to our mission. Your efforts make all the difference!

Board of directors:

Cathie Connelly - Chairperson

Colin Ross - Vice chair

Benjamin Lindsey - Treasurer

Sandra Jackson - Director

Karyn MacDonald - Director

John Wilson - Director

Elaine Gordon - Director

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Registered Company number: SC215070

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
THE ANNEXE!