

The Friendship Cabin

Costish Charity Regulator www.oscr.org.uk Registered SCI0 SC049320

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC049320 Principal Office: 42 Woodside Way, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5DF

Contact Information:

Phone Number: 07423 154632 E-mail Address: <u>info@thefriendshipcabin.com</u> Website: www.thefriendshipcabin.com

Trustees' Report – Relative to the Accounting Period ending 31st August 2021

The report for the accounting period covers a time when most organisations were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The whole basis of The Friendship Cabin was to offer and organise sessions, where those suffering loneliness and isolation, had the opportunity to meet and socialise. The period which the latest accounts cover, started, and continued with extreme lockdown measures in operation and The Friendship Cabin continued to carry out its requirements to members, by having thrice weekly meetings on Zoom Video Conferencing. The basis of these meetings was to talk, have quizzes and listen to music, but more importantly, it allowed for The Friendship Cabin to keep in contact with those in need and also deal with any problems members may wish to discuss. It was pleasing that we achieved the objective of staying together, increasing membership, and we were happy to receive electronic items donated by benefactors which broadened the membership base.

During the period of lockdown, the organisation distributed a monthly newsletter containing quizzes and providing up to date information. Moreover, we ensured that at Christmas, those living alone had a meal. Various dates of note came and passed, and the members received items at Easter, the anniversary of the organisation, VE day and other noteworthy dates. Additionally, during lockdown, a very limited befriending service was carried out, phone calls were made, and groceries and essentials delivered. Furthermore, in accordance with the restrictions, outdoor garden parties/sessions were held for limited numbers.

With the possibility of restrictions being lifted, The Friendship Cabin actively looked for a more permanent base to carry out its function and after having a nomadic existence, Woodside Community Centre was obtained by a lease from Fife Council. It required much work to be done by hard working Volunteers to ensure the facility was ready for the resumption of sessions in July.

The Trustees, Volunteers and Members were delighted that on July 10^{th, 2021}, The Friendship Cabin returned to normality by opening on four days a week and offering new and old members games, conversation, the occasional lecture, singers provided by Music in Hospitals and Care Homes and dance sessions. Each day included warm drinks and a hot meal and was a very welcome change for those having endured isolation for a long period. A further venture was to hold a weekly disco and karaoke session termed as "Fun Friday". This not only acts as a fundraiser but also encouraged those who were shy and embarrassed in company, to stand and sing, giving them great confidence.



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Looking to the future, The Friendship Cabin will be devoting an extra day to concentrating on mental health and wellbeing especially concentrating on Dementia and other neurological matters. Funding is being applied for to provide a visual display unit and backing this, the recruitment of Volunteers, all of whom will be given training.

Financially The Friendship Cabin looks strong but as an unfunded organisation it is totally reliant on fundraising, grants, donations and will continue to actively apply for funding from all sources.

Roger Wilks

On behalf of Trustees.