Lithgow Link

Connecting the Community

SCOTTISH CHARITY SC013502

Annual Report 2025—2026



LINLITHGOW LINK STRUCTURE

Linlithgow Link was established in 1979. It is a voluntary unincorporated organisation governed by a constitution which was revised and adopted in August 2014.

The Chairman, Office Bearers and Committee Members are appointed annually and are elected at the Annual General Meeting in August each year.

The Management Committee are the formal trustees responsible for overseeing the proper governance of Link and usually meets bi-monthly.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - MAXIMUM OF 10

Office Bearers: Chairman - Tom Kerr
Vice Chairman - Sammy McKee
Treasurer - Ian McDowell
Secretary - Fiona McClay

Ordinary members - Appointed August 2025: Myra Steel, Bridget McGee, Alison Bell. Tommy Thompson

LINLITHGOW LINK MISSION STATEMENT

Linlithgow Link aims to provide a voluntary service to promote the concept of a more caring community, particularly within Linlithgow by:

- Providing a visiting and car service as voluntary back up support to the statutory caring services
- Providing support for all identified sectors of the community, particularly the elderly infirm, in the form of social or community activity
- Addressing needs on an individual basis
- Raising awareness of the needs of these sectors of the community
- Promoting and publicising Link and the contribution it makes to the community
- At all times, working in partnership with our members, and the statutory and voluntary agencies

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Linlithgow Link, Chairmans Annual Report 2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has been a busy one for Link. We continue to provide transport to and from medical appointments at Hospitals and the Health Centre. Also picking up and delivering prescriptions to clients if required.

The Tuesday Group is busy and remains popular. A big thank you to all the volunteers who continue to make it a success. The Caring Café attendee numbers have increased, and we will continue to work with Alzheimer's Scotland to support this service.

Our Befriending service continues by telephone and home visits and we are always looking to recruit new volunteers, also we have scope to increase the number of people who require and would benefit from Befriending visits.

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Funding is always an issue for voluntary groups including Linlithgow Link. We have been fortunate to receive one off support from other Funders and a grant from the National Lottery and I thank our Treasurer and other Committee members for their efforts. I also thank all the individuals and local groups who have supported Linlithgow Link throughout the year. It demonstrates the high regards that Link has within the Linlithgow community.

During my time as Chairman of Link, I have been lucky to have a great Committee to work with. We have new members that have joined in the last year and compliment and bring new experiences to the Committee. A huge thanks to all the Committee Members, leaders of the various groups and our volunteers.

To our Co-ordinators Irene and Marion who have built up a great relationship with the Linlithgow Community and kept the office fully operational throughout the last year. I thank them both.

Finally, as this will be my final year as Link chairman, I extend a huge thanks to all who are involved with Link, for their support and I am sure that Linlithgow will continue to be appreciated and supported by the local community.

Tom Kerr
Chairman

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

ACCOUNTING PRACTICES / POLICIES

The Receipts and Payments accounts, issued separately, have been prepared on a cash basis in accordance with OSCR [the Scottish Charity Regulator] guidance as the charity's annual income is less than £250,000.

Three months salaries, including employer's national insurance contributions and pension commitments are held as an operational reserve.

Where donations or grants have been received for a specific purpose i.e. not normal running costs, these are identified as separate restricted funds.

Other balances can be used for any of the charity's objectives.

DONATED FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Most significant are the teams of volunteers who deliver the Car Service, provide the Befriending Service and support the activities for the weekly Tuesday Group.
In addition, there is the time and expertise of the management committee who are the formal Trustees of the charity.

The facilities used by the Link Tuesday Group are at the Bield Housing Association, West Port and the St. Michael's RC Church Queen Margaret Hall used by the Caring Café.

LINLITHGOW LINK RUNNING COSTS AND FUNDING

Annual running costs for Link are now in the region of £28,000 - roughly 72% of which is staff costs and 17% is cost of the office.

During the year we received from WLC – Community Mental Health Wellbeing Fund £5,000 which they have agreed to continue for a further year. In addition, £20,000 was awarded from the National Lottery.

General contributions & donations which we are very grateful for helped to increase reserves during 2025/26 by £7,389.

Income on donations from individuals and local organisations along with our own fund-raising activities usually provides around £8,000 per annum.

GOING FORWARD 2026/2027

At present Linlithgow Link are financially stable with funds of £62,000 which will allow us to continue for a further 2 years. However, funding providers looking at our current Balance Sheet would most certainly decline any new applications for funds. As a result, the board of Trustees have discussed the matter and made the decision to not pursue any new funding for 2026/2027.

The above being the case we would anticipate a deficit of £16,000 for year ended

SUMMARY OF LINK ACTIVITIES 2025—2026

Our Services

Our services are open to people living in the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge area.

Requests for our car and caring services can be made by social workers, GPs and other health professionals and by those wishing to use our service themselves or by a family member phoning on their behalf.

Our car service takes members of our community, who are unable to use public transport by virtue of age, infirmity or disability, to health appointments.

Our caring service aims to increase wellbeing by bringing people together at our befriending groups, on our outings, at our Burns Lunch and through various other activities.

Clients registered to use any of Link Services	291

Car Services

Our volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to carry out car services. Service users make a payment of 45p per mile directly to the driver. This charge is a contribution towards petrol, insurance etc. The service user will be advised of the cost prior to undertaking the journey. A return journey to St Johns, for example, costs £9.00.

The following are the statistics for the year April 2025 to March 2026

Car Journeys carried out	173
Service referrals from Social Work/Medical Establishments	12
Volunteers Registered (in total across all services)	56

Service users comments about the Link during 2025—2026

I so enjoy the Tuesday Group, I have the opportunity to catch up with my friends made at the Group over a cup of tea and cake and enjoyed our outing to the Tee Caddy and our visit to Mackinnon Mill.

Throughly enjoyed our visit to McKinnon Mill, nice lunch and a chance for a bit of shopping.

The Volunteers and staff are so helpful and cant do enough for you

The Link staff and volunteers do a great job, friendly and courteous, and will go out of their way to help in any way they can

Thanks to all the Volunteers who go to such lengths to ensure our wellbeing and safety in bringing us to these uplifting occasions

CARING SERVICES

The caring services provided by Link come in many forms:

Caring Café

The Caring Café is held the third Wednesday of each month for anyone suffering from Dementia or memory loss, family members or carers are also welcome. A member of staff from Alzheimer's Scotland also attends and can provide advise and support. Refreshments are served while enjoying some light entertainment.

Befriending

Due to demand we have recruited a few more befrienders during the last year, Our befrienders will either pop in for a chat or call their clients on a regular basis. Our befrienders find it rewarding and generally every quarter the befrienders meet up giving them the opportunity to get to know each other and share experiences.

Tuesday Group

The Group meet most Tuesday afternoons in Bield West Port. Link volunteers take group members in the community to meet with the residents of Bield West Port and the group enjoy a varied programme of events. It is very popular and we currently have a waiting list. During the last year the group have gone out for afternoon tea, folk singing, story telling, prize bingo, flower arranging demonstrations, craft work, chair exercise sessions. A group of dedicated volunteers make this group possible and where possible provide transport for clients. Currently between 18—20 attending each week .

Outing to McKinnon Mill

Due to popular demand we returned to McKinnon Mill which was well attended. Those who attended enjoyed a light lunch and were able to do a bit of shopping. An ideal venue as it is all under the one roof. An enjoyable day out for everyone.

Easter and Winter gifts

Our Easter and Winter gift projects target households where people are mainly house-bound. At Easter, Link organised the distribution of an chocolate easter bunny & eggs along with an Easter Card to such 60 households. And at Christmas, Link distributed a tin of shortbread along with a Christmas Card. The children from the local primary schools prepared the lovely greetings cards. From the correspondence and calls to the office, we know that these gifts are greatly appreciated.

Christmas Lunch

The Link organised a Christmas Lunch for the Tuesday Group and guests at Linlithgow Golf Club during the month of December. An excellent lunch was provided by the Wee White Dog caterers and as always the service was first class. Again the weather pretty awful but everyone was in high spirits and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

FUNDRAISING

Xmas Fayre

The Link organised a stall at the Christmas Fair. A tombola was held along with a Loch in Scotland Board . A total of £617.19 was raised.

Burns Lunch

We held our Burns Lunch at Linlithgow Golf Club which was enjoyed by everyone. We raised £154.00 in the raffle.

Quiz Afternoon

Link held a Quiz afternoon with Deep Sea as our Quiz master at the end of March and raised £417.30. It was a fun afternoon and was well attended.

50/50 Prize Draw

November 2025 saw the nineteenth year of our 50/50 prize draw. Half of the money raised goes to the prize fund and the other half to Link's funds - hence 50/50.

For the year ending March 2025 £600.00 was raised for Link funds with the same amount being awarded in prize money although some of that was generously returned to Link as donations.

The prize draw is a valuable part of our fundraising strategy. Memberships will be due for renewal in October 2026 at a cost of £12. Details of how to join can be obtained by speaking to one of the Co-ordinators today or by calling the Link Office.

Donations

Between April 2025 and March 2026 donations were received from various local organisations, shops and individual members of the community. To everyone who donated, whether large or small, please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Every donation is welcome and helps Link to continue to provide the services already mentioned in this report.

Where applicable, we can recover from HMRC the tax on individual donations, provided a Gift Aid Declaration form has been completed by the individual concerned.

This is equivalent to 25% of the value of the donation given.

Linlithgow Link

Connecting the Community

SCOTTISH CHARITY SC013502

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

COMMUNITY FUND

LINK OFFICE

Link Co-ordinators – Marion Fleming and Irene Mulholland

Linlithgow Link,
The Partnership Centre,
93 High Street,
Linlithgow EH49 7EZ

Tel: 01506 845137
Email: co-ordinator@linlithgowlink.org.uk
Website: www.linlithgowlink.org.uk

The Link Office is open Monday to Friday from 9.30 – 12.30
Answering machine out with these hours