

Sponsored by Edinburgh & Lothian Trust Fund



**Welcome to our
Christmas & New Year
Newsletter 2024**

Latest News from The Prefab



Life as usual seems to be getting busier and busier as the charity continues to develop and deliver practical and emotional support to Midlothian kinship care families.

Sponsorship for some of the charity's projects proved difficult to source since one of the charity's main objectives is to help kinship families cope with kinship children that are cared for by a friend or relative through "a family arrangement". Many times these families do not receive a maintenance allowance from the local authority which automatically impacts and places pressure on the finances of the care provider. These kinship carers fall below the radar and often they are too embarrassed to ask for some kind of financial help.

The whole of the Third Sector is experiencing similar problems especially raising funds through the bidding process. KCM-SCIO is well aware that some of our projects that were usually delivered monthly proved difficult to provide through funding support not being achieved. Unfortunately this has caused a degree of financial hardship to some of our kinship carers but the Treasurer of the charity has always been keen to specify that this funding is dependent on the charity raising project funding for this purpose.

In August 2024 the charity engaged with a new 'Lived Experience Panel' facilitated by Midlothian Council offering support to organisations that have frontline knowledge and experience of what they are providing to their peer group. This should be a fundamental requirement for all charities/ organisations that are providing some type of support or assistance to, (in our case 'kinship care'); that organisations offering kinship care support should have, in their employ, some frontline

experience of kinship care not be providing their style of support from a professional perspective. The next online meeting of the 'Lived Experience Panel' is due to take place in Jan/Feb 2025. If there is anything that you consider worthwhile or ought to be raised from a 'lived experience angle' please contact Admin Office to discuss prior to this meeting taking place.

The Christmas and New Year project is well underway now and I hope you and your kinship children enjoy your outings/activities plus Christmas meal sponsored by the National Lottery Community Fund. Please get your kinship children to take some photos or draw and paint some pictures of their activity. I really like the pictures on my office walls – it brightens my days when it is cold, wet, snowy and dull outside!

I am now looking forward to 2025 and what projects the charity could deliver on your behalf. If you have any ideas let us know and the charity will explore suggestions and try and make fiction become reality. Come along to the Snack-n-Chat meetings (two per month) if you would like to explore some of these ideas in more detail. Check out the advertisement later in this newsletter to see when and where we meet.

I hope you and your kinship children have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and look forward to being in touch in the new year.

Lastly, but not least:

Thanks to all our sponsors that support the work of KCM-SCIO but a special thanks to the charity's Board Members and Volunteers that continue to deliver their help, guidance, direction and expertise throughout the year.

Lodge Dalkeith Kilwinning No. 10

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland



Front row (L-R) - Mr Paul Gilhooley, Mrs Lynda Maguire and Mr Jim Pryde.
Back row (L-R) - David Lewis (kinship child) and Andrew Maguire (son)

On 28 September 2024 the Armoner of the Masonic Lodge in Dalkeith Mr Jim Pryde invited representatives from Kinship Care Midlothian SCIO to attend a social evening in the Masonic Lodge Halls in Dalkeith to receive a cheque, as a donation, in favour of the charity.

The Masonic Lodge Members had been fundraising, in the charity's favour since March 2024 with many varied fundraisers involved including a family church service held in St Nicholas Buccleuch Church on 3 June 2024 to launch the start of their summer fundraising campaign.

The Masonic Lodge in Dalkeith was celebrating its 300 Year of Inauguration having been established and constituted on 8 June 1724.

Presentation of a substantial cheque for £4,100 was made at the end of the social evening by the Master of the Masonic Lodge Mr Paul Gilhooley to Mrs Lynda Maguire the Community Development Officer, KCM-SCIO. The charity was delighted to receive the cheque from Mr Gilhooley and during Mrs Maguire's acceptance of the cheque from the Masonic Lodge Members she mentioned that kinship care affects a whole family not just the kinship carer and the kinship child.

Merry Christmas ~ Ho! Ho! Ho!

Oh Help!!!

**Sponsors that have helped the Charity
with their Saving Plan.**

We couldn't have done it without you!

 <p>Lodge Dulkeith Kilwinning No. 10 Ancient Free and Accepted Masters of Scotland</p> <p>cashforkids</p> <p>BENTLEY</p> <p>Arnold Clark</p>	<p>St Mary's Episcopal Church Fellowship Group</p> <p>KCM-SCIO Support Group Fundraising</p> <p>Anonymous small gifts whereby the sponsors do not wish to be identified.</p>
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The charity is well aware of a problem that exists over the festive season when allowances and benefits such as the Local Authority Kinship Care Maintenance Allowance and other benefits are paid for an extended length of time to cover the period from mid-December through to mid-January. Kinship carers appear not to be disciplined enough to monitor their spending at this expensive time so the charity has been saving some funds to make a distribution to beneficiaries during the first week of January to ease cash-flow problems for kinship care families when it is a ginormous struggle to wait until mid-January until the allowances and benefits kick in again.

Please ensure that your Application Form for this distribution is completed and returned to the office by 18 December to allow time for the charity to deal with the administration for this project.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christingle Service

Tues. 24 December 2024

St Mary's Dalkeith

a family friendly service with carols,
oranges, hot chocolate and celebration

Come and build your own Christingle then join us out-
doors at the Nativity Scene
for Songs and Story

office.stlandm@gmail.com



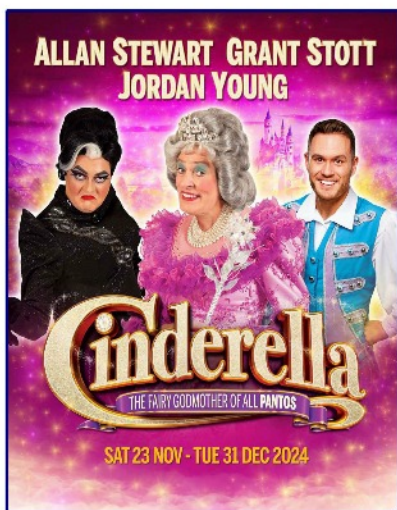
When & Where: Last Tuesday of each month during term time
St Mary's Episcopal Church, Dalkeith Country Park

When & Where: Middle Wednesday of each month during term time
The Prefab, Grannies Park Industrial Estate

**Big thank you from
KCM-SCIO to**



*Christmas Project 2024
Day Trips & Outings*



Being so close to Edinburgh the choices of outings were amazing.

So much happens in the city at Christmas and New Year; our kinship children were spoilt for choice. The Botanic Gardens + Edinburgh Castle floodlight displays just takes your breath away.



Dalkeith is fantastic too with Dobbies and the Country Park being so close by. Just a short bus journey from the town centre to both venues. Meeting Santa for our kinship children just couldn't be easier; he's coming right into our neighbourhood to meet and greet our kinship carers and their kinship children.



Thank you to our sponsors

- * Stevenson Trust
- * Thomson Charitable Trust
- * Bill McLaren Foundation
- * Anderson & Brown Charitable Initiative (AABIE)
- * Pear Tree Fund



Frontline Work
With our kinship children
to encourage them
with their hobbies





ALLOA TOWER

The Jacobite Risings are a fascinating period in Scottish history, and you can learn about the stories of those who fought for the Stuarts' cause at a number of Trust places. John Erskine, 6th Earl of Mar, played his role in leading the 1715 Rising – and he once lived at Alloa Tower. This medieval keep, the largest of its kind in Scotland, is packed with art, antiques and intriguing tales.



CULROSS PALACE

With its wee rooms and curious connecting passages, Culross Palace isn't what you'd first expect from its grand exterior, but inside it will dazzle you with fantastic painted ceilings and beautifully restored wood-paneled interiors. Used as a filming location in the Outlander series, it's the star attraction in one of Scotland's most picturesque villages, and gives a flavour of what life was like here in the 17th and 18th centuries.

KCM-SCIO has continued with its membership of the National Trust for Scotland. Fifteen transferable Membership Cards have been received for a period of one year in the name of the charity so that kinship carers and their children could apply to use the cards to enjoy a day trip or outing especially during weekends and school holidays. (This membership does not include any bookings for holiday rentals through the National Trust of Scotland). There are lots of activities, venues and sites to see - have a look at their website for some really great ideas. Access is free, many of the places have picnic areas so take your own snacks and drinks for an even cheaper outing or day trip. The activity diary for booking for this project is held in the office. Send an email or call the office with the number of cards required for your party (each person in your party needs to have a card for free entry to the sites) and the date you would like to use the cards.

Cards must be returned to the office as soon as practicable after your outing.

A small amount of subsistence funding is available, (per family group) if required.

Note: children can travel on the train for £1 during school holidays.

Christmas Biscuits Recipe



INGREDIENTS

150g/5oz of Self Raising Flour
2 tsp caster sugar
1 egg yolk

2tsp vanilla extract
300g plain flour

METHOD

1, Mix butter and sugar in a large bowl with a wooden spoon then add egg yolk and vanilla extract and briefly beat until combined.

2. Sift the flour over the mixture until it is well combined, If necessary pull together with your hands to form a stiff but soft dough

3. Roll out on a lightly floured board and using a round cookie cutter or an inverted tumbler.

4. Cut into rounds.

5. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet and bake until lightly golden brown for approx 12_15 minutes moderate 180C degrees

DECORATE

Mix icing sugar with a small amount of water to decorate ensuring it is not too runny but firm enough to hold its shape then add a marshmallow and decorate with small sweets and candies as in the picture and sprinkle with coconut if desired

Makes around 24-30 depending on size of cutter used

Homemade playdough



Ingredients

8 tbsp plain flour	food colouring
2 tbsp table salt	1 tbsp vegetable oil
60ml warm water	

Method

1. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl mix together the water, a few drops of food colouring and the oil.
2. Pour the coloured water into the flour mix and bring together with a spoon.
3. Dust a work surface with a little flour and turn out the dough. Knead together for a few minutes to form a smooth, pliable dough.
4. If you want a more intense colour you can work in a few extra drops of food colouring.
5. Store in a plastic sandwich bag (squeeze out the air) in the fridge to keep it fresh. You can make a batch of colours and give away as kids' party bag favours or hold a playdough party for your child's next birthday.

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there's 7 to find



Kinship Care is when a child lives full-time or most of the time with a relative or friend who isn't their parent, usually because their parents aren't able to care for them. That relative or friend is called a 'kinship carer'.

It is estimated that around half of kinship carers are grandparents but many other relatives including older siblings, aunts, uncles, as well as family friends and neighbours could also be kinship carers.

If you think that you could be a kinship carer to a younger relative or friend then get in touch with KCM-SCIO; the charity's office and phone lines are staffed by frontline kinship carers.

Our organisation could possibly help you along your journey of being a kinship carer.

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