



Introduction

Welcome to our second Newsletter. It's a chance to let you know what we're about, what we're up to, what's next and how you can help.



What is Leith Gives? Just in case you didn't read our first newsletter or had forgotten!

Leith Gives is a collaboration of charities, businesses and volunteers working in the Leith area to alleviate the hardship of poverty over the winter. It's overseen by The Leith Trust.

What have we been up to since the first newsletter?

Well, we've been busy!

We've distributed around 1000 food hampers- that's enough for around 16000 meals.

We've provided over 1000 gifts to children and people in isolation

We've distributed over 200 digital devices and are part way through distributing around 250 pre-paid Wi-Fi connections to make sure that some of the people we serve can get connected with friends, family, schools, colleges and essential services over the next few months.

We even made it onto the STV News and held a physically distanced media release with Ben MacPherson MSP and CityFibre- one of our supporters.

The numbers are nice to see but what's really important is that so many Leith-based organisations have worked together to serve people and families in our community.

Here are some photos of the Leith Gives Supply Chain with it starting at Edinburgh Community Food's depot in Tennent Street with Stuart Anderson, warehouse supervisor and Steven Hynd Floor supervisor in action filling the boxes



To distributing from the Citadel in Commercial Street (they look more like Little Mix than a delivery team!) and the Milan SWC team getting ready to distribute from their HQ.



To a satisfied Catrina Bryson (in the left hand photo) from All Together Edinburgh . Catrina is holding an iPad, with dongle and also received a food hamper. We got her Ipad set up so we

will be able to contact her on zoom or facetime rather than just a phone call. In the right hand photo there's Mr B who can now connect with family and friends with his new device. Mr B added his own thank you as you can see!



On the Spot....

We wanted to tell you more about our frontline work and so we asked Danielle Campbell who is the Dr Bell's Centre Manager to tell us a little bit about Dr Bell's and why they got involved with Leith Gives.



Here's the Dr Bell's team....

Hi Danielle, can you tell us a bit about what Dr Bell's does in Leith?

Dr Bell's Family Centre support parents of children under the age of 5 who live in the Leith Community. We offer a variety of support through our respite crèche, group work including walking groups, baby massage and cooking group, as well as a free counselling service. Dr Bell's is its own wee community within Leith, helping parents to foster relationships with each other and working together to boost confidence & improve parenting skills.

What made you get involved with Leith Gives?

We got involved in Leith Gives as we felt it was important to ensure that our communities voices were heard and that our families would be supported during these strange times. Our families already deal with so much, a campaign like Leith Gives gave families the opportunity to not worry about food, Christmas presents or being able to connect with their family & friends digitally over the festive period.

What did you hope to get out of being part of the team?

As I said, our aim was to ensure our families voices & concerns were heard. Dr Bell's Family Centre is integral to so many families in Leith it was important that we could sit at the table and work in partnership to create more positive outcomes for the community.

What do you think Leith Gives has brought?

I think Leith Gives has been an amazing opportunity for Leith. It has created positive partnership working, my hope is that the partnerships between the other organisations can continue and we can ensure that our community spirit remains strong.

What would you like to see happen going forward?

Legacy - my hope is that Leith Gives can continue in some form, with the same organisations around the table. Leith Gives came at a time of uncertainty and created so many positive outcomes for the community. The legacy is that Leith Gives because the community matters.

What surprised you the most about Leith Gives?

The biggest surprise for me was how quickly everything was pulled together. Although looking back now I'm not that surprised. All the organisations in Leith are so passionate about the work they do and the families they support. During COVID-19 we all had to adapt what we delivered or could offer quickly & everyone has adapted so well to make sure the community has the support it needed. Leith Gives made sure that we could make sure that basic needs were met & discuss what the future holds for the community post COVID-19.

And finally.... Any funny stories or memories from Leith Gives?

Any anecdotes? ~ trying to manoeuvre my way around the tram works in Leith to deliver food boxes was a life lesson! I also didn't realise how strong I was till I had to carry a box up several flights of stairs!

Thanks Danielle... we'll let you get back to walking Squeak and your weakness that we can't talk about...

What are some of our partners up to?

We've a whole range of partners and we thought you'd like to know a little more about a couple of them.

First of all, People Know How who have been working alongside The Edinburgh Remakery to supply devices such as laptops, tablets and headphones.

People Know How also provide support for digital skills to help use these devices. Their Learn Digital project helps people to improve digital skills, providing support to use computers and digital devices. It's designed for anyone who needs help with digital, including families, young adults, those seeking employment or the elderly. Their project can help you with what's important to you and they can tailor make a programme to suit you, including support to use devices, find jobs online, study online, home school, navigate the web and social media, improve financial health, pay bills online and much more!

Find out more at www.peopleknowhow.org/learn-digital

Here's a People Know How coaching session taking place



Who are we? Leith Gives collaborating partners:

Lennon Design	Edinburgh Community	Multi-Cultural Family	The Leith Agency
All Together Edinburgh	Food	Base	The Ripple
Baillie Gifford	Edinburgh Remakery	Leith Academy	Trinity Academy
BATs Community	Fettes College	Leith Rotary	Trinity Academicals Rugby Club
Rugby Club	Forth Ports (Port of Leith)	Leith Rugby	Trinity Primary School
Broughton Rugby Club	Hibs Community	Leith Trust	YMCA
Citadel Youth Centre	Foundation	Out of the Blue Print	
Cityfibre	Home-Start Leith & North East Edinburgh	People Know How	
Cyrenians	Milan (Senior Welfare Organisation)	Pilmeny	
Dangerous Studio		Development Project	
Dickson Minto		Port of Leith Housing Association (PoLHA)	
Doctor Bell's Family Centre		Siemens	
Edinburgh Academy		South Leith Parish Church	

What else can I do to help?

How to donate

<https://justgiving.com/campaign/LeithGives>

Links

Website: <https://leithgives.weebly.com/>

Twitter (@LeithGives): <https://twitter.com/LeithGives>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LeithGives>

What's next?

Well, we're going to look at what we've done and celebrate what's gone well and look to improve what could have been done better- just in case we do it all (or some of it) in the future.

And to end this newsletter here's quote from Willy from the Citadel:

"The Leith Gives initiative has done more than just help make Christmas better for the many families that benefitted from receiving support. It brought together, and consolidated, the partnership between different community organisations in Leith for the benefit of all."

Thanks Willy.

