

Newsletter

June 2021

Alderman Hall Re-opening

The windows and the outside curtain wall of the Alderman Hall has now been replaced. The heating system has been upgraded; all of which will ensure the hall will be warm even in the coldest of the winter months. If you wish to hire the Alderman Hall or any other rooms, please contact the Centre.



The new triple glazed windows with obscured glass will provide a greater degree of privacy for participants.

Café Update

The board of Knightswood Community SCIO has taken the decision not to reopen the community Centre's café until the situation has returned to a pre Covid normality and not seek a new café operator before all Covid restrictions, including social distancing, are eased.



**KNIGHTSWOOD
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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More Groups returning to Centre

Fit 'n' Fun, Ignite Theatre, Lighter Weights with Jayne, Mulholland School of Dance, Table Tennis Club, The Anti-Coagulant Clinic, and the Youth and Community Theatre are all now using the venue. For information about times and dates please visit [Knightswood Community Centre Website](http://www.knightswoodcentre.co.uk) [What's On Section](#).

Gary Gentles **Centre Manager a Personal Profile**

Anyone who has been a regular visitor to Knightswood Community Centre will have been welcomed to the venue by the rumbustious personality of Mr Gary Gentles. Gary has been the Centre manager since November 2017. He has been involved in community work and centres all his life. He started off as a caretaker in Community Central Halls in Maryhill then progressed to Centre manager in Knightswood. He worked in Maryhill for over thirty years. Gary has always been community minded and was a Boys Brigade leader and Captain for twenty-five years. Gary has two children, two grandchildren and been married for thirty-two years. With typical Gary humour he jokes 'that you get less for murder'.

One of Gary's passions is football. He has been a referee for over twenty-five years and is regularly seen "blowing his whistle" on Saturdays and Sundays on football pitches around the west of Scotland. If you have met Gary, then you will know that he is a massive Partick Thistle fan. It is the 50th anniversary of the Jags famous Scottish League Cup Final Win (4-1) against Celtic. Gary will no doubt be reminiscing about that legendary day in 1971.



Another anniversary that Gary remembers but for very different reasons is the 11th May 2004. Gary was close to the explosion that flattened the Stockline ICL Plastics factory in Maryhill to rubble. There were 12 workers trapped under the wreckage and it took a five-day rescue operation to find everyone. Sadly, nine people died and 33 were injured. Maryhill Central Halls didn't close for five nights and days as it was turned into a shelter for victim's relatives. Gary didn't go home during this time and helped comfort relatives. For his support and help to families affected by the explosion he was presented with a Lord Provost Award by then Provost Liz Cameron which recognises individual contributions to the community and their dedication to the people and groups who benefit from their selfless endeavour. Gary said at the time 'No one should go to their work and not come home again'.



Gary has fond memories of the last four years at Knightswood Community Centre, he particularly remembers the 2017 open day at the Centre where over one thousand people attended. Gary says it has been 'a hard year for everyone and is looking forward to seeing more people and groups returning to the Centre once it is safe to do so.'

Hall Lets Information

Knightswood Community Centre is hoping to open to all user groups and organisations from the 1st September 2021, depending on Scottish Government Covid19 guidelines. Priority will be given to existing groups using the Centre with them slotting back into their previous lets before the pandemic.



In anticipation of the loosening of Covid19 restrictions please see the table below for details about the letting procedure and timescale.

Let Information	Timescale
Let application forms for the period 1st September 2021 to 30 th June 2022 will be available to all previously existing user groups.	Week ending Friday 25 th June
Groups wishing to start back during the period 1st September 2021 to 30 th June 2022 shall return their let application forms.	Week ending Friday 23 rd July at the LATEST
KCSCIO Board will review let applications and allocate rooms for the period 1st September 2021 to 30 th June 2022.	Wednesday 18 th August
Confirmation will be sent to the Groups about their lets.	Week beginning Monday 23 rd August

Groups will also have to provide a COVID-19 risk assessment and complete a conditions of let form. A risk assessment pro-forma and an exemplar will be sent out to groups.

The latest date for receipt of completed let application forms, risk assessments and hall let conditions is 23rd July 2021, as the allocation of rooms and halls could be a very difficult and task if some Scottish Government restrictions are still in place. If you have any questions, please contact Gary (Centre Manager) on 0141 959 9419.