

 PRAYER

give thanks for...

- Malcolm!
- A successful and encouraging September weekend with 30 young people
- Times of blessing and refreshing in our Friday Night group
- Interest in Christianity courses and God's Spirit revealing Jesus to young people

pray for...

- Colin MacDonald as he takes on the chairmanship of COOL
- the youth work in uncertain church times
- those who struggle with depression and self harm
- young people trying to make sense of their faith

 SOME UPCOMING EVENTS (PROPOSED)

- 26 Jan COOL Committee meeting
- 6 Feb COOL Annual Celebration
- 2 Apr Plockton High School Easter Reflections

JANUARY 2015

FEBRUARY 2015

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MARCH 2015

APRIL 2015

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Naturally I am hugely thankful for the consistently professional and spiritual work provided by Dave over the years, and the support of his wife, Ruth. I must also express my appreciation for my long suffering wife, Maryon, and her support, who so often has been left to bring up our six children in my absence, whilst I have attended various meetings etc, although whilst living in this area, she has only had to cope with four teenagers at home at any one time!

As I hand over the chairmanship of COOL to Colin MacDonald of Glenelg, I do so in the sure knowledge that he will enjoy God's help and guidance in this role.



 CONTACT

This newsletter is available on our website. If you would rather receive a copy by email than by post, please contact: fiona@macdonalduk.net

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Chairman: **Mr. Malcolm Gardiner.**
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COOL is an interdenominational Trust employing a youth and schools worker to share and support young people with the Christian message. COOL is a Scripture Union Scotland Associate Trust, is a Recognised Scottish Charity (No. SCO31455) and Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.



www.coolscotland.org.uk

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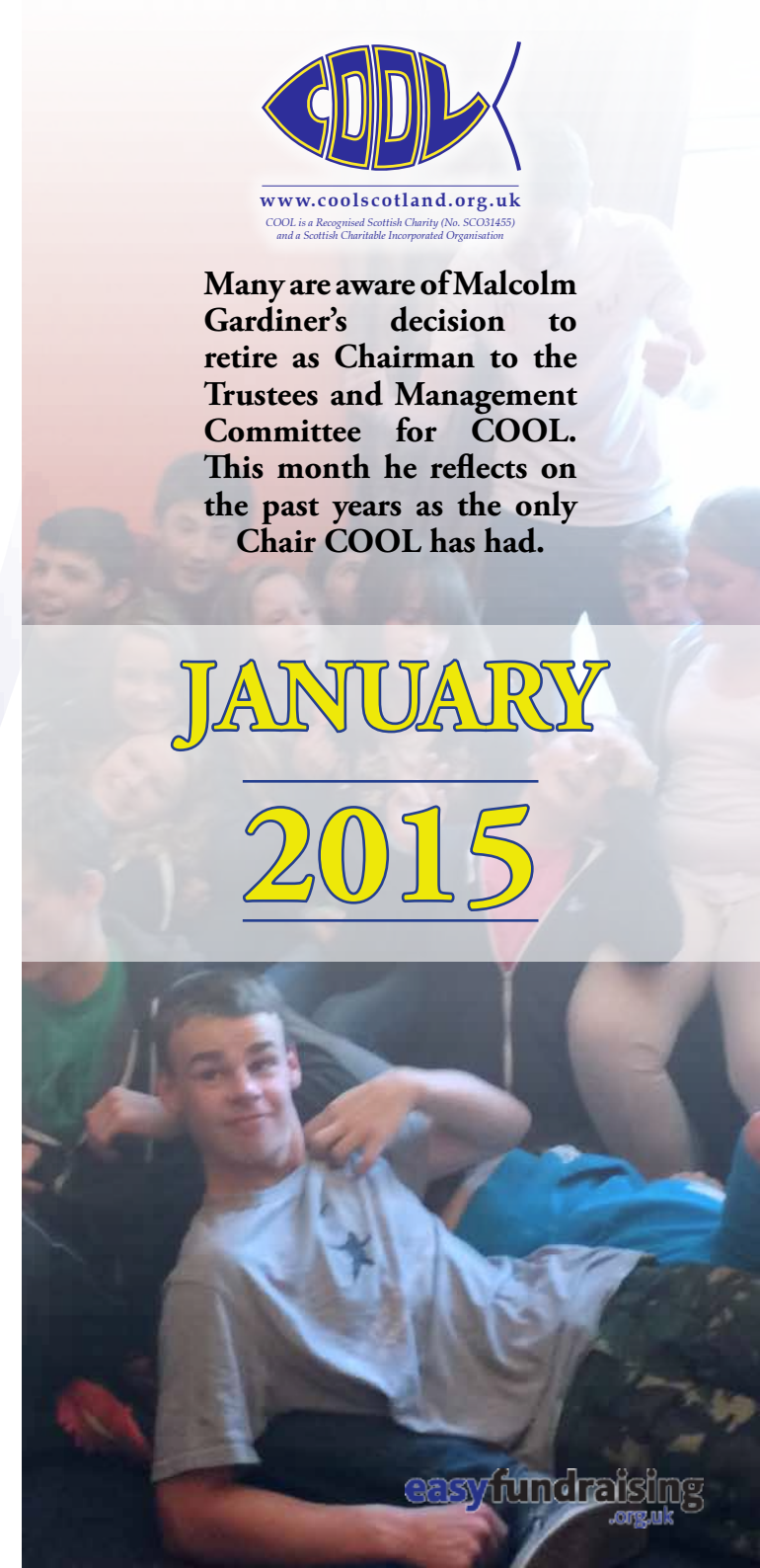
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Many are aware of Malcolm Gardiner's decision to retire as Chairman to the Trustees and Management Committee for COOL. This month he reflects on the past years as the only Chair COOL has had.

JANUARY

2015





My first thoughts go to when did it all start? Was it at a meeting in October 1999 when Iain Clyne, of Youth for Christ came and addressed a very well attended meeting in Kyle entitled 'The Tale of Two Missions', which was followed by a series of small meetings to discuss whether the employment of a full time youth worker in the area might be possible?

Was it at a well attended joint mid week meeting in Kyle in June 2000, when those attending committed to supporting such a project financially and prayerfully? Was it in March 2001, when a charitable trust called 'COOL' was formally incorporated?



On reflection, my answer would be 'no' to all the above, and I would suggest that the work started when three or four young people, together with a Christian teacher, at Plockton High School started to meet to pray for the school, and try to start some form of Christian meeting in the school in 1997. It was this that led to a chain of events that resulted in COOL being formed.

After the trust was formed, we wondered when it might be possible, financially, to start thinking about appointing a full time youth worker. We were awed when one or two local people gave so generously, that it was possible to start the search for a worker almost immediately. Meanwhile, through a Christian in the Central Belt who had knowledge of what was going on in our area, we were put in touch with a youngish guy who felt that God was calling him to serve as a youth worker in the NW Highlands of Scotland. Although we followed all the proper procedures of advertising the post, on the interview day, there was only one applicant, and it was that same guy, called Dave, together with his wife Ruth, who met with us, and the interview committee were

unanimous that he was the person God intended for the post. In December 2001 Dave started as the schools and youth worker for the COOL trust.

As I reflect on the financial provision over the years, it was initially through trust funding from the much maligned bankers, Lloyds TSB Trust Foundation, that a generous proportion of our funding was provided, due to the right people being in the right place at the right time. This was also very adequately added to by funding from the Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund over a number of subsequent years, as well as other trusts who provided somewhat smaller amounts. All along, many local Christians faithfully and regularly supported the work prayerfully, and financially.

As trust funding started to dry up, local Christians responded magnificently to the challenge of financially providing more for the needs of COOL on an ongoing basis, and my thanks goes out to them for their faithfulness both in their financial and prayerful provision. I am also so thankful for some of the local congregations who have regularly, and consistently, provided towards the financial needs of COOL over the years, as well as the regular ongoing financial support from the Open Door Café over the last 10 years or more.

I am deliberately refraining from naming specific people for special thanks as far as possible, in that so many have prayed and provided for COOL over the years, some of whom I am aware of, and some only God is aware of. Likewise for the folk who have consistently helped COOL in administrative and financial capacities over the years. I am also appreciative to Scripture Union Scotland for their help in many administrative and other matters.

So in the past 15 years or so, have we seen a mighty revival among the young people of our area? Sadly not, but what we have seen is God's hand touch many a young person's life through the ministry of COOL, through Dave and the many voluntary youth workers in the area who have worked alongside him. The welcome from all the local schools in the Plockton High School catchment area and others on Skye, as well as the High School itself, has really helped Dave's work in these schools.

Throughout the years I have been aware of God's hand on the work in so many various ways, especially in the more challenging times, and all the praise goes to Him.

Cut your COOL bookmark along the line

