

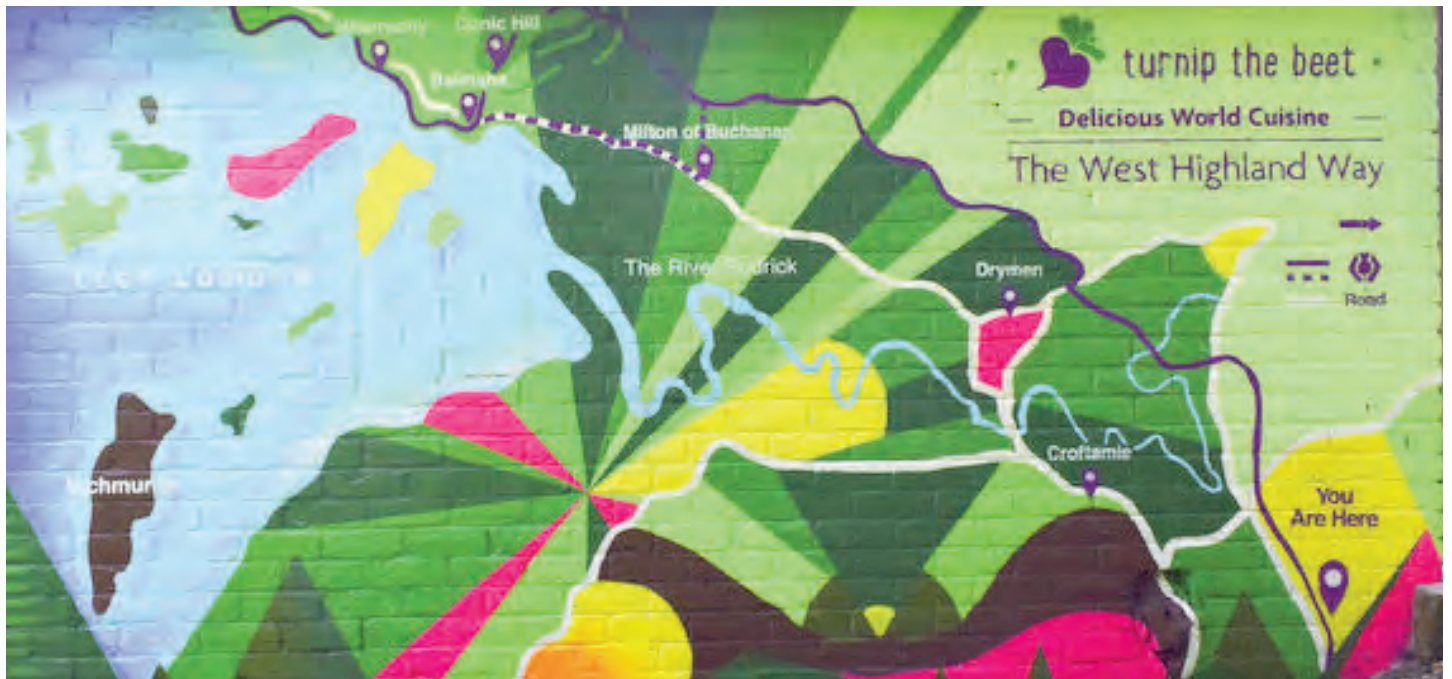
DRYMEN REPORTER

June 2021 Issue No. 86

Deadline for Next Issue 15th August

Editor - John Cameron Tel: 01360 660723

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



Is this the summer?

It's very tempting to say how nice it is that things are getting back to normal after lockdown and we can all 'cast a clout' now summer's here.

However, given that viruses are clearly smarter than politicians and the weather is more unpredictable than any of them, I'll settle for saying it's just nice to be able to bring you another 'Reporter' which, we hope, will brighten your day. Hopefully, the 'Reporter' will soon be available online, thanks to the new community website being launched by the Trust on June 21st..

While politicians argue about cutting aid to poorer countries, our young (and some not so young) folk have been busy doing the most amazing things to raise money for others and turning tragedy into success. We all look forward to things starting up again, but it's worth remembering that there were people working away, throughout the lockdowns, to ensure their organisation was ready to start again when the time came - the people we tend to take for granted because 'they've always done it' or 'they enjoy doing it'- the people who receive little or no recognition, never mind a knighthood.

So, when your club or organisation starts up again, just remember to say, 'thanks' to the organisers - it may be the first time anybody has said 'thanks for what you've done'.

John Cameron, Editor

Above - West Highland Way mural by Cameron Reid. See article on Page 16

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Probus Club

The Probus Club of Lomond completed a successful, if very different, 20/21 season of meetings at the end of April, with member John F Mackenzie providing a fascinating insight into the life and works Hugh Miller and his own ancestors' links to this nineteenth century polymath from the Black Isle. The talk was preceded by the Club's AGM at which the outgoing Chairman, Edward Pickard metaphorically passed his chain of office to Peter Semple who was elected as Chairman for season 21/22. Being a Zoom meeting, a suitably distanced handover took place at a later date.

As previously reported, members and those who had agreed to give talks to the Club, quickly adapted to the constraints of Covid with the result that a total of 12 meetings were held using Zoom. The final two months included talks on how to

tackle global poverty; 'Is Scots a language?' and a look behind the scenes at Auction House, Lyon and Turnbull. Thanks to Zoom maestro Alan Foulis and Chairman Edward, everyone (provided they remembered to unmute) had the opportunity to join in the lively onscreen debate which followed each talk!

Whilst holding meetings online helped members to keep in touch, the Club's programme of walks and other activities fell victim to the various lockdowns shortly after a first, and only, walk in early September last year.

Probus goes into hibernation over the Summer months but it is hoped that circumstances will allow a full programme of meetings to resume in the Village Hall from September.

If you would like further information on Probus, please contact the Secretary, Duncan Gilmour on 07717 477152



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Lodge Loch Lomond No 1483

With lockdown easing and some semblance of normality in the air, we look forward to the time the lodges can meet again, unfortunately it may yet be some months away, as most lodge rooms are not big spacious areas, social distancing severely restricts the numbers who can attend and as we rely heavily on visitors it is not viable to hold meetings until there is a further relaxing of these rules. It was with great sadness Freemasonry noted the passing to the Grand Lodge above of the Queen's husband Prince Philip, who was initiated into Freemasonry in 1952 in the Navy Lodge No. 2612 and remained a qualified member throughout his life.

As charity is one of the Pillars of Freemasonry, The Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire have donated £500.00 to the Drymen, Croftamie and Buchanan COVID-19 Support Group to use as they wish, a very worthwhile and much needed cause in present times and we wish them every success in their endeavours.

I trust all Lodge members are well and hope to see you as soon as circumstances enable us to meet, in the meantime anybody wishing information or any queries about Freemasonry, please contact me. Tel. 07737859442 email jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk

Drymen Community Development Trust news

We are on track to deliver all three of our 2020 priorities this summer! These are; repairing the parking bays and pavement on the Square close to the butcher's; a new village website and a heritage trail with nature and history panels.

We are grateful for all the community support for these projects and are delighted to have been awarded £15,318 from NatureScot and grants from National Lottery, Stirling Community Pride Fund and Magic Wee Funds. These awards boost monies pledged last year from DCDT funds, Drymen

Community Council and Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, allowing us to work on these projects.

As NatureScot's funding has a July deadline for completion we have commissioned work on the parking bays to take place in June, over approx 10 days, and we will do our best to ensure that there is minimum disruption. Around the same time, we will be filling potholes on the road around the Square.

At our AGM on June 21st, we will launch a new community website designed to reflect village life and hopefully become a valuable resource to residents, people moving into the village and visitors. We will provide free listings for all village businesses, shops, accommodation providers, clubs, and organisations. Thank you to everyone who has supplied content/listings for the new site - if you haven't yet and would like to do so, please contact us at hello@drymen.org. We are currently developing a heritage trail (with audio) for the website and information panels. Further new panels will showcase Drymen history and nature, with the latter kindly provided by RSPB Scotland.

We will present the findings of the recent Active Travel survey at our AGM, commissioned with Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust. We have emailed all members an invitation to our AGM; if you haven't received one, please email secretary@drymen.org. Of course, if you would like to join or re-join the Trust, do let us know.

We would welcome anyone interested in joining our monthly meetings; if you would like to become involved, please email hello@drymen.org or call me on 661029.

Paul Saunders

Elie Cardero

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West Highland Way clean-up

Ryan Davidson runs 'Highland Transfers' a company involved with accommodation for cyclists and walkers in the west of Scotland, and decided he wanted to do something for the community, so he, with friends and family, recently undertook a litter clear-up of part of the West Highland Way. They thoroughly enjoyed their day in Drymen, and several locals thanked them for their efforts and even offered them food. Thank you, Ryan and friends - and thank you to the locals who made them feel welcome and showed their hard work was appreciated.



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Melanie Woods – World Para Athlete

Over the last few years, it has been a pleasure to keep readers up to date with the activities of Melanie Woods, originally from Drymen, who was injured in a cycling accident in 2018 and, having been a PE teacher, chose wheelchair racing as the route to get back into sport.

I'm delighted to say that, as I write this article, she will be competing in the World Para Athletics European Championships taking place in Poland from June 1-5, one of seven Scots in the 47-strong GB team - a tremendous achievement, having just competed in her first international in Switzerland in May.

She says 'The selection came as a surprise but has given me confidence in how my training is going. I will be competing over the distances 100m, 400m, 800m & 1500m. This is a lot, but I hope to enjoy the competition and gain experience racing at a championship event. I have used training & competing in wheelchair racing as an opportunity to see what I can achieve and show where determination and resilience can take me!'

What a magnificent achievement Melanie - you're an inspiration and we are all behind you.

Results just in. Melanie just missed out on a medal in the 400m by 3 tenths of a second and recorded personal bests in her other 3 races. Excellent results in only her second international event.

Let us know if you can help

If you have any interesting articles we would love to receive them. Please send emails or word documents to John Cameron at drymenreporter2017@gmail.com

The Team

John Cameron - *Editor*
Claire Pocock - *Compositor*
Frances Lander
Jakki Sendall
Tom Duncan - *Delivery*

Community groups, clubs, and societies are not charged for non commercial adverts.

Printing

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Tel 0141 429 1094

Next issue Sept

If you would like to have your contribution included please send it before the deadline of

15th August

Good news for bookworms

It has been such a long time since we were able to welcome our readers and community over the threshold of the library and Pamela and I have missed you all. But I'm delighted to say that from Monday 12th July, we will be able to invite you back to browse and use the internet once again. To keep everyone safe, we will be offering appointment times initially, but as things ease further, we will be able to offer more and more of our usual services. The past year has been a challenge for most and it is great to know that with vaccines on offer, we are moving in the right direction back to 'normal'.

Our very popular 'Select and Collect' service will continue to run alongside normal browsing. Many of you have enjoyed taking a 'lucky dip' of books selected by staff whilst still being able

to order specific titles.

It will also soon be time for the ever-popular Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 0 to 11 years. The theme this year is 'Wild World Heroes'. 'The Reading Agency' has teamed up with WWF for a very special nature themed challenge. All the children have to do is read six books over the summer holidays, collect a stamp at the library for each book, along with a reward, and once their 'reading passport' is full, they can use it to visit the Safari Park for free.

More info will be going into schools soon, or you can contact the library.

We look forward to seeing you again very soon. Until then, take care.

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/libraries-archives/library-select-and-collect/>

Christina and Pamela

Useful Info

RBS

Mobile bank not currently operating.

Drymen Pharmacy

Telephone: 01360 661285

Monday to Friday 9am – 6pm

Saturday 9am – 1pm

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Booking online is now essential.

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www.stirling.gov.uk



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Meteorology Matters

Drymen 2020-21	Mar	Apr	May
Temp highest max	17.4	18.9	23.1
Temp lowest max	3.8	8.7	5.1
Highest min	10.9	7.1	10.2
Lowest min	-0.7	-5.0	-1.6
Mean maximum	10.6	12.4	14.6
Mean minimum	3.6	0.5	4.8
Mean temp	6.9	6.2	9.6
No. days <0	2	16	3
Monthly rain (mm)	120	19	83
Most in 24hrs (mm)	24.9	6.5	24.0
Days with >0.2mm	18	14	15
Days with >2mm	11	3	7
Days with >20mm	1	0	2
Annual rain so far	368	387	470

Temperature shown in °C

Spring has finally sprung but it was a long time coming.

March conformed to the time of year, but it was April that broke the records with a surprising and disappointing return to wintry conditions. The consolation was a dry bright month with only 19mm of rain (instead of the usual 136mm) and 50% extra sunshine. However, clear skies brought an extended run of sharp drops in temperature. Drymen recorded an exceptional 16 air frosts with perhaps another 5 or 6 grass frosts on top of that - the Glasgow expectation is 1 or 2 sub-zero nights. The UK had the lowest average minimum temperature for 99 years. The photo was taken on 10th April when lambs were born into -5°C chill then subjected to snow flurries all day. May started with three further frosts before low pressure and soggy conditions prevailed - the 3rd and 11th each saw nearly an inch of rainfall.



Lorna Buchanan

History Society

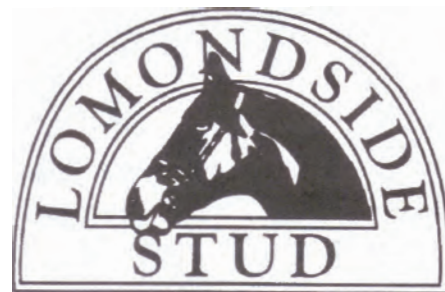
Drymen and District Local History Society recently held their AGM (via Zoom) which covered business for 2 years as the 2020 AGM was not held.

The Chairman paid tribute to Alison Brown, who had retired as Secretary after 40 years of diligent and dedicated service in the post. The Committee had marked the occasion by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and a gift token. Margaret Harrison was appointed as the new Secretary.

The Chairman reported that there had been a slight rise in membership to 50. The Society was delighted to have been given a grant of £100 by the Drymen Community Council which will be used to purchase archival-standard (acid-free) sleeves and containers to preserve our collection of photographs, slides and notes inherited from Mary Bruce. Alison Brown has been organising and recording the photographs and they will eventually be placed in the Society's archive in Drymen Library.

In 2020 the Chairman, John Carruthers, took part in the filming of a TV documentary about Buchanan Castle for the series, 'Abandoned engineering', which was shown on the Yesterday channel in March 2020. It was hoped to show the film at the Members Night in 2022.

Speakers have been booked for the 2021/22 programme with the first meeting to be held (hopefully!) on 23rd September, speaker Alan McBride on 'The elephant, the Marquis and the castle'. Further details on 2021 meetings will appear in the September 'Reporter'.



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BITS AND PIECES

Drymen in Bloom

We have received our consignment of plants and hope that by the time the Reporter is published they will all be in place.

The plants and shrubs around the 'pump stones' at the corner of Balmaha Road have been cut back to make the stones more visible.

Seven volunteers spent a few hours on Saturday tidying up, weeding, pruning, strimming and laying down new bark at the viewpoint opposite Buchanan Arms. Special thanks to Rae Gibb who cuts the grass on a regular basis.

The wildflower area on the verge in Stirling Road has been cleared of the old nettles, docks and buttercups and will soon be sown with wildflower seeds. Thanks to Struan and Angus Robb for using their new steam cleaner machine and rotavator.



Drymen Women's Institute

Like most clubs, more or less all activity has ceased since March 2020.

At first, we kept in touch by email and then boldly attempted to use Zoom. The future is uncertain, but we hope to meet, in person, on Thursday 9th September in the Village Hall at 7.30. This will be a social evening and we'll hold our AGM then too.

We look forward to welcoming present members and new ones also. Come and enjoy a social evening with a nice supper.

For information, phone Elspeth O'Brien on 660616

Drymen Art Club

It is very exciting to think that the members will be able to meet together in the Village Hall in September after a break of 18 months. The ethos of this community-based Art Club is to encourage one another to develop and improve our painting skills together. We can refer to the Club's extensive library of art books as well as a range of teaching DVDs to use on our club screen or take home on loan. Some members attend art courses and bring back their new knowledge and guidance.

The club has a membership of around 20 and we would welcome a few more. If you are interested, then come along any Wednesday afternoon and meet the members and see what we do. Join us around 2.30pm when we break for a cuppa and have a chat. Our start date will be 22nd September.

At the end of our session, we have an exhibition of the artists' work over the year when you will have an opportunity to show your work. Generally, the paintings are for sale. Over the three days there can be 300 visitors as it is a main attraction for local folk and visitors.

If you are interested in joining the Art Club, contact the secretary, Tom Gilchrist, for an Application Form. (Email: gilchristthomas@aol.com)

Drymen & District Senior Citizens' Association

Well, hello again, and haven't the last three months passed quickly? In fact, this year seems to be flying by! Thankfully, things are generally looking up, and it's lovely to see the village stirring into life again. I have booked the hall starting from September for our meetings, in the hope that the club can resume in some form, although I haven't attempted to make up a syllabus yet as until we know what we are allowed to do it's a bit difficult. It will also be dependent on us being able to do the extra cleaning that will probably still be necessary - if anybody would like to volunteer their help once a month, please give me a ring. So, let's all just keep our fingers crossed, enjoy the summer (whatever the weather!) and I'll hope to see you all in September. As always, if you fancy a blether, please pick up the phone.

Linda (More) 660706

Running the West Highland Way for charity

It was during lockdown last year, 22 year old James Semple from Drymen decided to challenge himself and help raise awareness of mental health by running the 96 miles of the West Highland Way in one go. Having suffered with mental health problems for a few years he was very frustrated by the year long wait to be able to see someone. In doing the challenge he also wanted to raise money for SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health).

Although James goes to the gym regularly the furthest he had run was the London Marathon with his dad John in 2017. He began training in December, with a strict training plan increasing the distance each week. Weather was not always kind to him, as James said "It certainly wasn't pleasant running 34 miles in the driving rain and 40mph winds!!!"

There was also a lot of planning behind the scenes recruiting friends & family to accompany him for each sections of the run. James's mum Rosemary also spent hours making protein snacks, and large quantities of pasta, rice and chicken, as James had to snack every 45 minutes and have food at every check point (roughly every 12 miles).

It was an early start the day of the run, up at 4am to ensure he had a good breakfast before driving up to Fort William. It was a family affair to begin with, John running the first 13 miles from Fort William before sister Hannah took over. James said "in the early stages it just felt as if I was going on another run" However the realisation of what he had set himself started to kick in.

"People ask me what kept me motivated whilst running for almost 30 hours and trust me there were a lot times after the halfway point where I really had to dig in deep. After running for nearly 21 hours and it just turning quarter past 4 in the morning, I was arriving at one of my final checkpoints and to be brutally honest I was completely physically drained, I could hardly feel my legs and I still had another marathon to go.! At this point all my focus was on why I was doing this. The hope to inspire others and make them realise that many things are possible when you put your mind to it and being able to achieve the challenge that I had set myself."



Rosemary, who works at the Clachan said "It was quite emotional seeing him run into the village, past the Clachan, with his friends all around him"

James arrived in Milngavie after 29 1/2 hours to a huge welcome, even managing a few press ups at the finish!!!

I think one of John's friends who ran with him during the night summed it up perfectly - "What an achievement! I'm so sore and that was just 26 miles. I'm humbled to have been involved and absolutely delighted, dare I say tearful. Seeing the youngsters turn out at 4am was a real lift to us all."

James, who had originally set a target of £1000 has so far raised over £10,000. If you would like to donate, please find attached link to his fundraising page

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JamesSemple4>

Finally, James would like to thank Louise Macfarlane and Stuart Dick for providing the t-shirts, Gordon & Elaine from the Clachan for supplying his now well worn trainers & Stuart Fraser & all the Fraser family for accommodating his shifts to fit in with his training. Not forgetting all his family, friends and supporters on the day.

The Semple Family



Buchanan Arms Bowling Club

Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Well, we certainly hope so as lockdown has not been good for anyone. Meeting other people is a necessity in life and that is why I am pleased to report that Buchanan Arms bowling green opened for the summer on Saturday the 8th of May. The weather forecast was not good but, for the eighteen members who were there, the sun may not have shone, but it did stay dry long enough to enable our



oldest member, Past President Ronald Johnson, to roll the silver jack, deliver the first two bowls of the season, declare the

green open and wish all members an enjoyable summer of bowls. As present covid restrictions do not allow us to use the clubhouse, a socially distant cup of tea and raffle was enjoyed "al fresco". Two of our members, Ronald Johnson and Angus Kennedy, were recognised for their many years of long and distinguished service to the club by being made Honorary Presidents, a title well deserved by both. (see photo, left)

We are not allowed to have visitors from other clubs at present, but hopefully this will change to let us play some friendly games. Club competitions will be played this season

and notification about this will be circulated to all members. New members are always welcome so, if anyone would like to join, come along on a Monday night 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start or contact any member or myself.

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John McKenzie.



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School News

RocketFund

Thank you so much to families and members of the local community for helping us to raise our target of £1000 to develop a new space called the 'Technology Hub' in our school - we also raised a further £600, which is fantastic. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We will use the money to purchase, before the summer, some new resources including coding technology, tablets, construction materials and drawing and creating materials. We look forward to the new session when we can welcome visitors to come and see the space.

Drymen Dances

As a focus on our physical and mental wellbeing and to bring the classes together outside, on Friday we have been taking part in an initiative called 'Drymen Dances'. This aims to finish the week with a feel-good factor as well as building confidence and stamina. Each dance session is led by our fantastic SLA, Mrs Houghton, and we continue to be impressed with the great dance moves at Drymen Primary! "I love it and it makes me happy and I like telling my mum all about it." - Max P3. "I really like it because we can move around and just be free." - Maia P3. "I love it because it's a type of art that lets you move around and express yourself." - Charlotte P3

Weather Watchers

"During the last few weeks at Drymen



Primary School, P5/6 have been doing a project called 'Weather Watchers' that we have all really enjoyed. We have learned about rainfall, and we have created rain collecting devices as well. We have also made presentations about the data, which we have collected over the space of a week. With our presentation we got to show off our listening and talking skills that we have been focussing on doing this term.

We did this to compare our data with CENSIS, a rainfall device installed in our P1 playground. We are certain all of us have enjoyed it! With all of our hard work we have completed our presentations and made graphs to show our data. This has helped us with our climate change topic." - by Sophia and Anna P5/6.

World of Work Week

"World of work week was a way for all the pupils to get an idea of what they want to be when they grow up and what skills and attributes are needed for different jobs. We watched various videos

from all kinds of different people explaining their jobs and what they do in their life. We learnt how to write a CV and all the skills important for various employment roles. I learned that the most important part of growing up is finding a job that you enjoy. My favourite part was dressing up as what we want to be when we are older,



as it let me see all the paths in life I could possibly take." - by Zara P7

Drymen Debates

As part of World of Work Week and developing children's critical thinking skills, every class from P1-P7 took part in Drymen Debates. We debated issues related to our current class learning contexts. Everyone received a certificate and there was a Star Debater selected from every class.



Hill Walk Challenge

Children from Drymen Primary School and their families have put on their walking shoes and tackled a huge challenge that the PTA have set them; to each walk the height of Ben Nevis!

The challenge ran for 6 weeks over the Easter period. We had a fantastic response which saw children from all classes running, skipping and enjoying being outdoors, on local hill walking routes.

The aim of the challenge was to encourage families to enjoy our local hill walks and to raise funds for the school to help provide additional resources to support learning and play. So far, we have raised over £1000, just fantastic.

The PTA want to say a big thank you to everyone that helped with getting their children out on the hills or supported us through sponsorship. Most of all though we wanted to say a massive well done to all the children that took part!

Charlie Wallace (PTA Chair)

(Collectively, as a school, they climbed 53000 metres, which is remarkably close to climbing Everest **six times!** That's really impressive. Ed)

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Drymen Show – looking forward to 2022

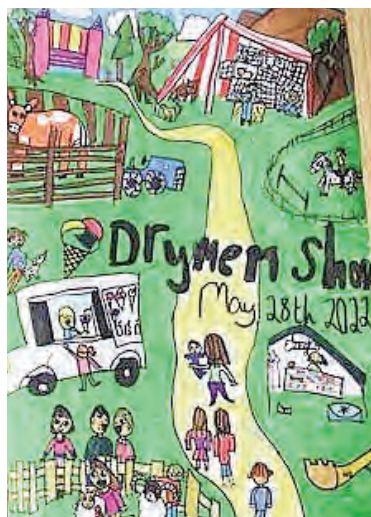
Drymen Show would like to thank the community for its continued support and looks forward to welcoming everyone back to next year’s Show, which will be held on Saturday 28 May.

To help advertise next year’s show a poster competition was held on the Drymen Show FaceBook page and the winner was Anna Wyllie. Thank you to everyone who took part. All entries will be used and shown around the show field next year, with Anna’s used on the front page of the programme also.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee or simply helping to run the show, please message our FaceBook page. We welcome everyone and anyone who’d like to keep the Show, which began in 1816, running.

Thank you and see you next May.

Wendy Gillon



Work to start on Hanover site

Cruden Building, the contractor responsible for the construction work in Montrose/ Conic Way Hanover site, sent out the first ‘Resident and Community Newsletter’ and a letter to residents in that area in April, informing them that work was likely to start in ‘a number of weeks’ and asking that bends in these roads be kept clear to allow vehicles access to the site. Once started the work is likely to last for a full year.

The newsletter and letter outline the steps they are taking to keep residents informed and minimise disruption through; regular school liaison, regular Site Newsletter, a Traffic Management Plan/ site signage and road cleaning. They have also asked residents to advise children to stay out of the site – security cameras will be installed once the site is established. Any toys/ balls etc which end up in the site will placed at the perimeter fence next day for collection.

(This information has been extracted from the 4 pages of detailed information sent out to residents. Cruden was contacted by phone, but call was not returned – Ed.)

Guiding in Drymen

We are fortunate in Drymen to be able to offer Guiding across all sections - 1st Buchanan Rainbows, 1st Drymen Brownies, 1st Drymen Guides and 1st Endrick Rangers. The naming of the sections tells you a little bit about the origins of the groups i.e., 1st means that the group is the original group formed and the name is often associated with the village or area that a group was formed in. Some groups do have geographical catchments if numbers are restricted but



for the most part you can join a group anywhere you like if they have space. Our Rainbow group was formed as an after-school group in Buchanan Primary School, hence its name, while our Ranger group was the first one to be formed in Endrick division and was set up to be inclusive of all the other areas who, at the time, could not provide a Ranger group.

The guiding programme offers various activities suitable to the age group and many that take place outside as well as indoors - the emphasis is on building relationships, with mutual respect and trust, whilst encouraging our young people to be independent and innovative.

We have only a few weeks left of this session as we follow the school year, but anyone interested can come along for taster sessions till the end of June. The new term starts in August and there is some exciting news for the Rainbow section. From October Girlguiding UK has decided to allow 4-year-olds to join, as has been the case in Northern Ireland for a while and works well. To start with it will be up to individual groups whether to admit 4yr olds, so 1st Buchanan Rainbows will admit 4yr olds who have started school, which means they can join





at the same time as their peers. If you are interested come along and talk to us in August.

The photos show some of the great activities the sections have been doing over the last couple of years (some are pre-covid)


Whilst Rainbows currently don't get to camp out, they always enjoy putting up the wee tents and having a pretend sleep over complete with campfire and marshmallows! The older girls thoroughly enjoyed pretending to be injured and climbing all over the equipment. There are always one or two trips out to cultural events (in normal times) and the Tartan Gig is a favourite.

Contact Rebekah Merrick (membership leader) on 07789634433 or beccaemm@googlemail.com


You can buy retail bags of our coffee in all of our outlets!

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We are delighted to be open again in the Luss pier kiosk, selling our homemade gelato and home roasted coffee.

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Exciting developments for Cashel Forest Trust

Like for most organisations, 2020 was a strange year for the Cashel Forest Trust. The visitor centre was closed for most of the year and our extensive events programme was cancelled. Interestingly, the wildlife continued with ‘business as usual’ and probably even flourished given how quiet everything was. However, from the perspective of visitors of the human kind, things are looking on the up in 2021!

The good news is that the Trust has been able to secure grant funding from NatureScot’s ‘Better Places Green Recovery’ fund, which aims to support activities in rural areas that will come under additional visitor pressure during the 2021 ‘staycation’ period (i.e. East Loch Lomondside!). We will use these monies to improve the visitor experience at Cashel, namely:

- Installing one new and upgrading two other panoramic viewpoints on the upper footpaths including providing new picnic tables;
- Improved signage and interpretation;
- Undertaking repairs to the upper ‘pinewood’ and ‘montane’ footpath circuits;
- Employing a seasonal ranger on-site from the end of June until the end of October to help visitors enjoy their experience at Cashel; and
- Upgrading the car park with new signage, bike racks and an electronic parking ticket machine.

Subject to weather, we are planning to have most of this work in place for the beginning of the main visitor season in early July.

Installation of the bike racks will mean that visitors from Drymen will now be able to cycle to Cashel and leave their bikes securely while using Cashel.






The ticket machine will help raise some revenue which, in turn, will be put towards helping maintain the facilities. Regulars and locals will be invited to purchase a

season ticket and become a ‘Friend of Cashel’. More about this in future features. The seasonal ranger will be in post to the end of October 2021 and will be able to advise on walking routes, help promote and advise on things to see and do at Cashel, whilst also keeping on top of maintenance and visitor management. The Cashel Forest Trust look forward to welcoming visitors from Drymen. Please keep an eye out on the Cashel website www.cashel.org.uk for updates or speak to Peter Phillips in Drymen.

NEIGHBOUR FOOD

- Online local food market selling fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cheese, cakes, jams and much more.
- Support small scale local producers and environmentally friendly food production.
- Weekly collections in Balforn, Aberfoyle, Drymen & Killearn

To order visit www.neighbourfood.co.uk
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News from Drymen Church

Services

The journey out of lockdown took a significant step forward on 17 May as the Scottish Government updated its timetable for easing restrictions. As this message goes into the Drymen Reporter it is hoped that from 7 June all of Scotland will move to Level One, with a greater relaxation on the numbers allowed to meet up. However, the churches have not been included in the advance information (apart from advice regarding weddings and funerals). The crucial step for those setting out the seating for our services is the 2-metre distancing requirement. While that is in place the Church cannot increase the numbers allowed to attend services; however, don't let that put you off! You can phone during the week to have a seat kept for you - the number is 660361.

Many of us have been learning more about the joys of the internet, and Drymen Church services can be listened to online if you go to <https://drymenchurch.org/sermons>. They are recorded each Sunday morning and available on the website later in the afternoon.

Rev. Alex Macpherson's retirement

As reported in the last Drymen Reporter, our Minister is retiring at the end of June. Because Stirling Presbytery is on holiday for the months of July and August, the process of appointing a successor will only begin in September. We will still have a Sunday morning service at 11.30 am, led by a variety of preachers and you are very welcome to come along, reserving your seat while the two metre distancing applies by phoning



660361. This number should also be used by anyone in urgent need of a minister.

Start-up Stirling Food Bank

Foodbank collections are quarterly, and we have continued our regular support throughout the pandemic. Hopefully, donations can be made at Church on Sundays 6th and 13th June, but otherwise at Colin O'Brien's home, 20 Clairinch Way, on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June and the following week on 14th and 15th.

Alison Brown

Gartness Road/ Stirling Road housing development

This statement has been received Craig Ormond, Mactaggart and Mickel Homes Director.

"Following receipt of planning permission for 88 homes, subject to planning conditions and Section 75 legal agreement, M&M have been working to secure the various other required statutory consents to allow development to proceed. Roads Construction Consent and Drainage Technical Approval have now been granted. We continue to work with the National Park Authority to discharge the pre-start planning conditions attached to the planning permission and good progress is being made. We are also delighted to confirm that the Section 75 legal agreement has been signed and registered. The site

levels design has been adjusted to ensure that any movement of material off-site is minimised in line with National Park Policy and accordingly a planning application has been submitted to amend site levels. Permission for these revised levels will be required in advance of site start. We are also in ongoing discussions with Stirling Council to reach agreement on the delivery of the temporary car park, that must be completed and operational prior to works commencing to extend the existing car park. Once we have secured these final approvals and completed the discussions with Stirling Council on the car park, we will be in a position to start Phase I of the development which will consist of 30 affordable homes for Rural Stirling Housing Association and the car park extension works."

*Editor's Note – Residents need to be aware that a temporary car park will be built beside the telephone exchange on Stirling Road and **the existing car park closed, probably for a year, when work starts, for extension of the car park and to allow access to build the first phase housing.***

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Planning for the Village Hall reopening

Hello everyone, we hope that you are continuing to stay safe and well and enjoying the longer days and occasional sunny spells.

Clearly the last two months have been eventful with the continued roll out of the vaccination process and the gradual reduction in restrictions. Fingers crossed this will continue to mean that we are heading back to a more normal world.

On that note, we would like to announce that, on a step by step basis, we will be starting to bring the hall back to life from early July 2021 and, hopefully, by mid-August/early September when the majority of our regular users restart, we should be back to "full strength". However, please note, that until we are fully out of the restrictions (and Level Zero is still a level of restrictions) we will not be able to host private parties.

The 2021 AGM went quite smoothly when it was held online, for the first time, on Sunday 21st March and it was

great to see so many groups represented. The committee consists of just three members, and we would really love it if anyone would like to join the committee to help with ideas going forward and the maintenance/improvement of the hall. This doesn't mean we are looking for people to get their hands dirty (though we won't stop you if it appeals!)

but just to help co-ordinate work on the hall. If this is of interest to you then please contact Jackie on 01360 660919 or drymenvillagehall@mail.com Don't forget that you can still support the Village Hall in many different ways:-

You can buy a 50/50 Club ticket. This has just celebrated its 3rd Birthday and in those three years has raised an amazing £1,050 for the hall. If you would like to know more the details/application form is on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/DrymenVillageHall/?fref=ts> or drop us an e-mail and we can tell you all about it. Also, if you are shopping online, free

donations can be raised for the hall by using the following websites <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/> <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC000799> Finally look out for our new website page which will be on the Drymen Community Development Trust's website (www.drymen.org) which is being launched in June 2021. We are looking forward to this website being the "go to" place for information about what is happening at the hall.

Fingers crossed this is the start of the hall coming back to life again and we look forward to seeing you in the hall very soon.

Kind regards from the Drymen Village Hall Committee

Community garden – growing news.

The community garden in Drymen operates on a 'give what you can, take what you need basis' so, please go along and enjoy the community green space and harvest what you need and, if you can spare time to help or have tools or plants to donate, please do. Financial donations are always welcome as this enables us to offer free services (fresh produce, workshops etc) to those on lower incomes. Produce will also be distributed via our shop. Thanks to funding from Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) 'Growing Food Together' fund we have been able to develop a growing space in Killearn and employ 'Grow Ambassadors' Nick and Sarah, to oversee both sites. Across both gardens we aim to donate at least 20% of our produce to low-income households.



Team G63

Great graphics

Having completed his degree in Graphic Design at Edinburgh Napier University, Cameron Reid (who used to deliver the 'Reporter' for us a few years ago) has been busy brightening up the local area with hand painted murals including these examples at the start of the West Highland Way and in the new bakery/deli at the corner of Gartmore and Stirling Roads. His work can also be seen in Buchanan Arms Leisure Club and Turnip the Beet, and on Drymen Inn way marker and firms' signs and sandwich boards around the Square. Go to Instagram @fluidstudio_ and website <https://www.fluid-designs.co.uk/> to see more of his work.



Drymen Community Council Update

We would like to welcome and thank Mike Kane and Adriana Dent for answering our call and volunteering to be co-opted onto the Community Council. Adri and Mike offer a wide scope of experience and knowledge which will be invaluable in helping us make the right decisions for our community.

We would also like to thank Jakki Sendall, Maja McTavish and Dave Burgoyne for their time as community councillors. We wish them well.

Recently, we have been involved in various consultations, including East Loch Lomond visitor management, the possible closure of Buchanan Primary School, a planning application for the Main Street,

and proposed electric vehicle charging points. We have also tried to keep our community informed via Facebook, notes posted within local shops, email and word of mouth.

The Community Council is your voice in the various discussions we have with Stirling Council, the National Park Authority, and the Police, to name but a few of the organisations with whom we communicate. If you want your voice to be heard, you can volunteer to be co-opted onto the community council, you can volunteer to help the community council, or you can simply participate in our monthly meetings (we don't sit during July and August). For more information, email drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Andrew Richardson,
Secretary**