

DRYMEN REPORTER

September 2021 Issue No. 87 Deadline for Next Issue 15th November

Editor - John Cameron Tel: 01360 660723

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



The 'Reporter' goes online

Congratulations to the school on winning their 7th 'Eco Schools Award – a great achievement. We must also congratulate Melanie Woods on her first Paralympic Games appearance – see page 5 – I've no doubt the first of many.

As mentioned in the June 'Reporter' each edition can now be viewed online, thanks to the new Drymen website (see page 4 for details) – we're very grateful to the trust for this service. One other small snippet of good news is that the bins will no longer be collected on a Sunday - see your Council letter and page 5 for more information.

While it's great news that facilities like the library and the Village Hall are starting to re-open, albeit with conditions, there appear, at the time of writing, to be no plans to replace the Post Office service within the village. For the main access point to East Loch Lomondside to be devoid of banking, Post Office, dedicated Tourist information or public toilet facilities is, as one tourist described it, 'like stepping back in time' – poorer than when we arrived 43 years ago!

In this edition we have articles on plans for possibly making an electric car available for hire: electric bikes which can be borrowed and details of various organisations' planned activities over the next few months. There's no excuse for being glued to the telly this winter!

John Cameron, Editor

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Food Shed

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic our local community has come together to offer support to our most vulnerable residents. It has been a very difficult and challenging 18 months for all of us, and we are so proud of the resilience amongst the villages.

The COVID 19 support group has gone from delivering shopping to over 50 families per week at the beginning of the pandemic to currently delivering one or two parcels per week to families having to isolate. We've also changed the way we reach families who have been supported by the foodbank throughout the pandemic. Although still responding to individual families in crisis, we now direct families to the Food Shed, which is located on the left side of the village hall. The Food Shed is a place where you can donate and share food (short or long life) and household items as well as home grown veggies, fresh herbs, eggs. Anything that would otherwise go to waste can be left in the shed to be taken by those who need it. It will be checked regularly to make sure nothing is left to spoil.

The purpose of the shed is to encourage less food waste and sharing within the community; a swap shop of fresh and dry goods. However more importantly we would like to encourage those that require any supplies that they need to take them with no expectations of replacement.

If you need any help, would like to talk to someone, are in need of a Kindness Parcel or would like to discuss donating food or toiletry donations please call or text Amanda Reid on 07811633968 or Louise Macfarlane on 07791399542.

Alternatively, you can make a donation to the GoFundMe page using the following link: <https://gofund.me/a5fe928a>

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe

Amanda Reid & Louise Macfarlane



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Buchanan Arms Bowling Club

I trust all your readers are well and have enjoyed the summer sunshine. At the bowling club we are doing the best we can under the present restricted conditions. Three club single handed competitions are ongoing now: the Ian Brown cup was played for on 30th May, winners being – Eleanor McQuade, Jackie Hardie and Gillian Munro: the club pairs were contested on Sunday 27th June, winners – Bobby Rose and May Boyle - congratulations to the winners and well done to all who took part. The Forth and Endrick league commenced on the evening of 23rd July and, after 5 weeks, Kippen Bowling Club were the winners, congratulations to them.

We were hopeful of playing the usual friendlies with the sister clubs, but unfortunately, we were unable to manage this, so we will, “hopefully”, get back to some form of normality next season. It is too late this season to take up bowls but if anyone would like to give it a try next season, get in touch with me or any other member.

John McKenzie, tel. 07737859442 e-mail
jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk

The Community Council has been busy

We do not hold public meetings during July and August, however, that didn't mean we took time off to enjoy the good weather.

Main Street railings - Repairs to the kerb and railings outside the Village Hub were arranged in liaison with Stirling Council and completed to a high standard.

Proposed Post Office closure - The Secretary had an online meeting with Alyn Smith MP, during which Mr Smith was left in no doubt about the community's opposition to the proposed closure of the Drymen Post Office counter. We await an update from him.

Refuse collection - A letter was sent to the elected councillors of our ward, leaving them in no doubt about the community's opposition to the upcoming reduction in the refuse bin collection services, and the charge to uplift garden waste. Councillor Berrill responded,

blaming the other parties for the decision to change the bin collection services, and said that there was nothing which our elected councillors could do to reverse the decision.

Traffic management - The Secretary and the Roads Correspondent joined representatives of Drymen Community Development Trust in a meeting with a representative from Stirling Council's roads team to discuss traffic management in Drymen. Discussions between the relevant stakeholders are ongoing

Parking enforcement and diversions - The Secretary sits on the National Park's East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group, promoting the best interests of Drymen whilst solutions to visitor management issues are considered and implemented. The presence of Stirling Council's parking enforcement officers and the temporary traffic diversion which diverts visitors out of Drymen via Stirling Road during busy periods, have been well

received by the community. Please note that when this diversion is in place, residents can still leave Drymen via Main Street.

Car Park recycling bins - We were approached by members of the community in relation to the waste which was accumulating at the recycling bins within Drymen Car Park and the glass recycling bins were emptied after the Secretary contacted Stirling Council.

Our Planning Correspondent continues to monitor and respond to any local planning applications on which we have been requested to submit a comment.

If you would like to offer the Community Council your help and support, or would like to contact us about an issue within the local community, please email drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook page.

Andrew Richardson, Secretary

Drymen Women's Institute

Along with the 12,000 members of WI across Scotland, we are celebrating the opportunity of meeting up again and our new Branch session is starting, in person, on Monday 6th September when we'll get together to chat and plan for the year ahead and enjoy some nibbles together. We hope to have talks and a craft demonstration in the next month or two - some activities will take place in person, and some still on Zoom - non Zoomers can join in a larger group to enjoy the meetings.

Below, are details of the national programme with the hope that people will have a look and enjoy what is on offer. There are to be "Star" performances for all to enjoy on the SWI's new digital platform: -

Womankind by SWI. Anyone interested can join in from home, or with friends and get a taste of what WI is about.

There is also a YouTube channel: - **Scottish Women's Institute TV** which hosts talks and gives

demonstrations of crafts.

During the rest of the week, the stars will entertain us: -

Tuesday 7th September - 7pm on Zoom - talk by Scottish crime fiction writer Denise Mina.

Wednesday 8th September - 2pm on Zoom, Ramsay McGhee talks about Mountain View School for the Deaf in Malawi which is giving young people a future.

Wednesday 8th September - 7pm on Zoom, George Anderson of 'Beechgrove Garden' is the speaker.

Thursday 9th September - 2pm on Zoom - Sheena Norquay talks about quilting.

Thursday 9th - 7pm on Zoom features Gary MacLean, winner of 'MasterChef, the professionals', talking about life after the show.

Log-in Details for Zoom sessions go to <https://zoom.us/join> enter meeting ID: 875 8883 8838 enter Passcode: Friendship

To all cat lovers

Calling all cat lovers – can you provide a new home for two beautiful female neutered black cats, together or separately?



Sadly, I am moving, at the end of October to a busy location in England and am looking to rehome my cats to kind people who will give them all the love and affection they deserve. They are now 11 years old, extremely fit, used to living an independent rural life and are immaculately clean and well mannered. Both have been kennelled in the past, will use a litter tray if necessary, and are accustomed to travelling in a crate.

**For further details, please contact:
Tessa Thomson: 01360 661294**



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Sat 9.00am-1pm. Closed Wed

RBS

Mobile Bank Stirling Council Car Park
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Croftamie Mill Quadrant
Fridays 10.00 - 10.30am

Drymen Pharmacy

Telephone: 01360 661285
Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm

Balfour Recycling Centre opening hours

(Dunkeld Court, behind the Co-op)
Monday to Friday 5pm - 8pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm

Booking online is now essential.

**See Stirling Council website
www.stirling.gov.uk**

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 - Composer
Frances Lander
Jakki Sendall
Tom Duncan - Delivery

The Reporter is now available to view online at
www.drymen.org/drymen-reporter

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

Printing

J.Thomson Colour Printers.
Tel 0141 429 1094

Next issue Dec

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

15th Nov

Melanie Woods- Paralympic wheelchair racer

What enormous excitement in Drymen to find out that Melanie had done so well in her first wheelchair race at the Paralympic games in Tokyo, beating her previous personal best time to come 3rd in the T54 800 metres wheelchair heats and finishing a very commendable fifth in the final.

In the 400 metres race (in torrential rain) she was very disappointed not to qualify for the finals. In an email she says "What a crazy experience, enjoyed every moment of my first games and it certainly has given me excitement for what is next. Will definitely need to go back to Japan - unfortunately we didn't get to see any of it, but what a welcoming country". She should be so proud of herself, and we look forward to



hearing of her activities in the future. I so enjoyed watching the amazingly inspiring games which have brought joy to so many people throughout the world.

Frances Lander

Bin collection change

Everyone should have had a letter from Stirling Council informing them of the changes, the main changes are shown below.

Bins will be collected on a Thursday from 23rd September 2021.

No bins will be collected on the week after the brown bin is collected.

For more information call 01786 404040 or visit www.stirling.gov.uk/Recycle4Stirling



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Meteorology Matters

Drymen 2020-21	June	July	Aug
Temp highest max	25.3	27.4	26.8
Temp lowest max	11.6	16.6	16.6
Highest min	14.2	15.7	14.7
Lowest min	4.2	8.3	5.5
Mean maximum	19.2	22.3	19.9
Mean minimum	9.9	12.7	11.0
Mean temp	14.4	17.1	15.0
No. days <0	0	0	0
Monthly rain (mm)	48	52	105
Most in 24hrs (mm)	26.8	21.3	24.7
Days with >0.2mm	13	10	15
Days with >2mm	6	10	9
Days with >20mm	1	1	2
Annual rain so far	518	570	675

Temperature shown in °C

The Spring months may have been extremely frosty but the cold quickly gave way to a glorious Summer.

In fact, Glasgow basked in its hottest summer since temperature records began in 1884, and the Drymen figures bore this out locally. On average over June, July and August, the Drymen mean temperature was 1.6°C warmer than expected, substantially warmer than the next hottest summers of 2020, 1960, 1995, 1976, and 2003, all of which were within 0.1°C of each other. Average daytime maximums were 2.5°C up which is remarkable.

The wider continental picture showed a similar pattern - Europe declared its hottest season ever but succumbed to an undulating jet stream from which separated an area of static low pressure. This caused prolonged slow moving torrential rain and catastrophic flooding in the Rhine Valley. London and the South caught this to some extent but Scotland escaped.

Despite occasional downpours each month, we enjoyed slightly drier conditions overall and around 20% extra sunshine in July.

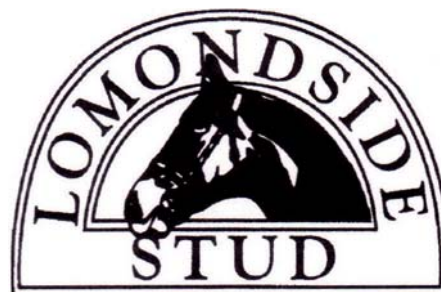
Lorna Buchanan

Arise, Strathendrick Stitchers!

The group formerly known as 'Strathendrick Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild' has risen like the phoenix from the ashes, after the national Guild's decision last summer to no longer support its branches.

We will still meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Kirk Hall, but the hours are slightly shorter this session, 10am - 2pm. We must abide by the Hall's Covid rules, so it's BYOB (no, not Bottle) but Bring Your Own Banquet: lunch, drink, cutlery and crockery.

The programme is slightly different this session: we will host 'corners', where members will guide you through something new - rumour has it that there may be wyverns involved: our store cupboard is an Aladdin's cave of curious fibres, fabric paints etc waiting to be experimented with: we will have short talks by members on particular textile topics: Show and Tell will feature - some bodies have been very, very creative indeed: competitions, Christmas lunch and the SST Gathering in April: there may be an outside speaker and a tutor-led workshop in the New Year. Strathendrick Stitchers will provide a welcoming, friendly and enthusiastic place where all are welcome and valued and we look forward to members - old and new - participating in our new venture. Any questions? Contact Susan at strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com.



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BITS AND PIECES

Art Club meetings re-starting

Drymen Art Club is a friendly group of people who enjoy art and encourage one another to develop and improve our painting skills together. The Club will re-start on 22 September

This year, since the government announced Scotland is moving back to level 0, the committee has planned for the members to paint together again. It is really exciting to think that, starting on September 22nd, our twenty-two members will be able to meet again in the Village Hall every Wednesday from 1pm- 4pm - with a short tea break mid-afternoon to chat.

Beginners are welcome, as well as experienced painters, and we can all 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.

This year, the committee has chosen Saturday 27th November for a one-day art sale in the Winnock Hotel (Covid restrictions permitting!). We will also have another exhibition of the artists' work over the year at the end of our session in April, when you will have an opportunity to show and sell.

We are open for art lovers who want to join us. Please, if you're interested in joining the Art Club, contact our secretary, Tom Gilchrist and ask for an application form (email: gilchristthomas@aol.com) or just drop in and see what we do.

Yani Homfray

Sowing the seeds

I am so pleased that the wildflowers on Stirling Road have been such a success thanks to: Stirling Council for supplying the topsoil and some seeds: to seed-sowers Katie, Claire, Jakki and Sandra and to our much-needed chief waterer Douglas, with help from Una. Hopefully this year's seeds will germinate next year – we can add extra seeds if needed. Watch this space!



We wonder how people got on with the seeds donated by the community council. If you managed to take photos please send

to Frances at landerbandb@me.com. We have prizes for the best ones.

Frances Lander

History Society - Autumn meetings

23rd September - **The Elephant, the Marquis and the Castle**, an illustrated talk by **Alan McBride**, Ranger at Mugdock Country Park

28th October - **The Anvil of History**. **Murray Cook**, Stirling's Community Archaeologist will discuss his recent book on the importance of Stirling in Scottish history

25th November - **The Navvies at Loch Chon**: an illustrated talk by **James Kennedy**, Chair of Loch Ard Local History Group on the construction of the first Loch Katrine to Glasgow Aqueduct between 1856 and 1859.

Meetings are held in Drymen Village Hall at 7.45 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. Annual membership subscription of £7 is payable at the first meeting in September and covers all 7 meetings. Visitors are always welcome - admission to a single meeting for non-members costs £2. For more information visit our web site at <https://www.drymen-history.org.uk>

Midgie end to Guiding term in Drymen

Drymen Guiding units ended their summer term with a mini festival, Midgefest 2021, to celebrate all the girls' successes over the year. The leaders felt it was important to bring all the girls together to celebrate this as it had been a particularly hard year for us all and many things had changed. The girls took part in beach games, water paddling and, of course, a headlining act, before performing some of their own songs. At the end of the festival the girls were awarded the certificates and badges that they had earned. Midgefest lived up to its



name and fun was had by all - including the midgies!

We have now started our new term and are delighted to welcome back many of our girls. We

are also delighted to welcome any new

members and we have some exciting news about our Rainbow unit, we can now take girls from the age of 4!

Rainbows is the youngest group of the Girl Guiding Family and is all about developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things while having fun. Girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, get in touch with nature and play games - it's all about learning by doing. Rainbows follow a diverse and engaging programme and can take part in lots of different activities with girls their own age, both in indoor and outdoor settings.



Girl Guiding has been running surveys over the last year to see if both members and leaders would like to lower the age and the results were an outstanding yes. The overall feeling was that by lowering the age to 4, it would allow the girls that are starting primary school together to join guiding together.



- In Drymen we run
- 1st Buchanan Rainbows (4-7yrs),
- 1st Drymen Brownies (7-10yrs),
- 1st Drymen Guides (10-14yrs),
- 1st Endrick Rangers (14-18yrs).

If your child would be interested in joining any of our guiding groups, please contact Rebekah Merrick. Phone: 07789634433 Email: beccaemm@googlemail.com

Rebekah Merrick



Welcome back to school

It's been lovely to welcome pupils back to school after the summer holidays, particularly our new PIs and new families across the school. The children can now mix again in the playground, and we are enjoying eating lunch again in the school canteen.



Children's Rights Over the last few weeks, children have been settling into school routines and learning about Children's Rights. We do this every year to help create our Class Charters and to explore our school values of respect, teamwork and kindness. I think you'll agree that our charters look very creative! This year, we are starting our journey to be recognised as a Rights Respecting School.

Eco Schools Award In June, we had confirmation that our learning for sustainability programmes have secured our 7th Eco Schools Award. We are very proud of this achievement! A very big well



done to our Eco Groups, their teachers and Mrs Hall for collecting the evidence for the award. Our feedback was very positive, highlighting the children's learning about plastic and the use of class debates as good practice.

2021 GARTNESS BEER FESTIVAL

POSTPONED UNTIL SPRING 2022

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www.gartnessbeerfestival.co.uk

All tickets remain valid and tickets are still available to purchase online

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e: murraygwatt@yahoo.co.uk t: 07799 778086



School Improvement

This year, we are focusing on four areas to improve our school:

- The teaching of writing and spelling
- Children's Rights
- Pupils giving feedback to each other (Peer assessment)
- How we involve children and families in the work of the school

Please visit our Glow website for more information on our plans.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/drymenprimaryschool/>

Patrick Robertson, Head Teacher

The But & Ben
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Church news - too soon to celebrate

After many months living in the shadow of the covid virus we have some hope, (a light at the end of the tunnel?). By the time you read this issue of the 'Reporter' Scotland should have moved to level 0 from 9th August. However, the Government, the Church of Scotland and our own Kirk Session are sounding a simultaneous note of caution - "The virus has not gone away." We want visitors and our own church family to know that safety is still our priority - masks will still need to be worn and 'safe distancing' maintained. We are now allowed to have up to eighty in the congregation and it's no longer essential for you to phone to "book a seat" for the Sunday morning service. Anyone in urgent need of a minister should phone Drymen 660361

We continue to hold our Sunday morning services at 11.30am, led by a variety of preachers while the post of Minister is vacant. The volunteers who arrange for online broadcasting of our services are returning from a summer break and plans are in hand to resume an online Sunday message broadcast from our web site, but its format is under review. Please check our web site: <https://drymenchurch.org/> in September for up-to-date information.

Start up Stirling Food Bank

Foodbank collections are quarterly, and we have continued



our regular support throughout the pandemic. Donations can be made at Church on Sundays 5th and 12th September or taken to Colin O'Brien's home, 20 Clairinch Way later on those two Sundays.

We have had the go-ahead to resume our weekly Coffee Drop-in in the Winnock Hotel. It's open to anyone who would like to drop in for a chat from 10.30 to 12 noon on Fridays. £1,00 per head - and please wear a mask, which you can take off once you're seated

Alison Brown

Probus Club of Lomond

After a successful transition to Zoom last winter, the Probus Club of Lomond will resume meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 9 September with a talk on the work of Tenovus from member Alan Foulis. An interesting and varied programme of speakers has been lined up with the Club

generally meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from September to April next year.

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

DCDT Update

DCDT is delighted with the resurfaced parking spaces, the first stage of renewing the roads and path surfaces around the Square, we hope you are pleased too.

Our next task is to raise around £85,000 to resurface the road around the Square and pathway across the green. A high price, but a solution that will last for many years to come. We are exploring grant opportunities and other fundraising ideas but raising that sum will be highly challenging. However, we have agreed that



this is the Trust's number one priority, and we will do all we can to make this happen.

At our well attended AGM in June, we launched the new Drymen website – www.drymen.org, a website for the village. There is an events diary, a directory of village businesses and details of local clubs and organisations. At the website, you can join DCDT, download the latest Drymen Reporter, book the Village Hall, and discover walking/cycling routes. There is also a suggestion form to put forward any ideas for village improvements.



DCDT organised Piping on the Square, with Doune and Helensburgh Pipe Bands sharing the Thursday night slot over the late summer. The event will return in July and August next year. In addition, Drymen Advent Windows will return in December; more news on that later in the year.

The team is working on a new audio heritage tour and nature/information panels for the Village Square. More details coming soon.

The Trust has identified funding which would pay for an electric vehicle in the Village which would be accessible to anyone with a driving licence in the village. However the funding is only available to trusts that can show support and a requirement, please email us outlining how you would benefit from having access to an electric car, letting us know what you would use it for. And finally news just in, we have just received notification that we have been successful in our funding bid to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

Green Recovery fund for repair and upgrade works to the Bus shelter in Drymen Square. This will see the roof replaced, bus shelter repainted and lights added, along side the addition of new bike stands, a ebike charging point and a bike maintenance point.

We have had a hectic year but have been hugely motivated by the growing membership and supportive messages. Thank you to everyone who has joined or re-joined in the last 12 months. If you wish to become a member, the cost is £6 per person or £10 for a couple; we've held those prices for many years. This year we have also received some further donations, which are very much appreciated.

The team is Katy Gibb, Rae Gibb, David Mackie, Struan Robb, Robert Coleman, Ewan MacKay (Treasurer), Richard Boddington (Secretary) and Paul Saunders (Chair). If you would like to join our monthly meetings, you would be very welcome; please contact us at hello@drymen.org to find out more.

Borrow a bike

Have you ever wanted to try an electric bike? If so, you'll be pleased to know that we currently have two easy access e-bikes in the village for people to borrow.

Riding an e-bike is just like riding a normal bike, with the pedals, gears and brakes that most of us are used to. The only difference is that when you push the pedals on an e-bike, a small motor engages and gives you a boost, so you can zip up all our local hills without breaking a sweat! On an e-bike Rowardennan, Balfron and Aberfoyle (up Old Gartmore Road!) are all within easy reach.

The bikes have been kindly provided by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust and are being looked after by DCDT and The Hub G63. They are part of a wider aspiration to encourage active travel (walking and cycling) around Drymen. The Active Travel Plan for the village is available on the Discover Drymen website here - www.drymen.org/active-travel

The bikes are two sizes. The smaller bike is suited to riders with a height of 4'10"-5'6" and the larger bike is suited to riders with a height of 5'6"-6'2".

If you're a local resident and you'd like to borrow one (or both) of the bikes for up to 14 days then drop me an email at secretary@drymen.org. Have a go and experience the e-bike smile!

Richard Boddington



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Aberfoyle : 10am-4pm



Carbeth : 7am-6pm

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The best ever cheeseburger!?

As stated by many of our customers since the launch, don't just take their word for it come and try it out for yourself. Quarter pounder burger patty with cheese, burger sauce, onion chutney and crispy onions! Yummy.



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@lochlomondcoffee



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Santa is back!

You can visit santa with us in December, visit our website shop to find out more .

Drymen & District Senior Citizens' Association

Well, it's been a long time coming but I'm delighted to say that on Tuesday 21st of September at 2pm the senior citizens will meet again in Drymen Village Hall. Our first meeting will be a long delayed, but very brief, AGM followed by a wee bit music, an afternoon tea and a big blether!

New members will be made very welcome; we meet from 2pm to 4pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September through to April in the Village Hall (except for our Christmas Lunch in December and a High Tea in February). In addition, we usually have a coach trip in May. If you're 60 or over and fancy a bit of light entertainment and company to while away one afternoon a month in winter, then please come along and join us - a warm welcome awaits. Please bring along a cup, a face mask to wear when circulating, and on arrival please use the hand sanitiser provided on entry to the hall. I hope, all being well, to see you on the 21st!

Linda (More)
Secretary 660706

A new era at Buchanan Castle Golf Club

Buchanan Castle Golf Club is enjoying a busy season and is delighted to introduce our new professional, Jason McCreddie, who joined us as PGA Professional in June 2020.



NEIGHBOUR

FOOD

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Starting at a difficult time, Jason worked hard behind the scenes to make sure he could hit the ground running when the season began. Jason said, 'My priorities are to provide coaching for all levels of golfer, run a well-stocked shop catering for everyone's golfing needs and to see membership grow with more people playing the game.'

Jason's career highlight came in 2008 when he won the Scottish PGA Championship, and he is a very accomplished coach. He has installed an indoor swing clinic where you can practice on one of 27 virtual golf courses including The Belfry and Gleneagles amongst others. The practice facilities at Buchanan Castle are unrivalled with the 6-hole Academy course, a covered 10 bay driving range, warm up area and short game area. Get in touch with Jason about coaching options on 01360 660203 or proshop@buchanancastlegolfclub.co.uk

The Clubhouse is also undergoing change with a new Clubhouse & Events Manager in place and a new chef coming soon. The clubhouse is open to non-members as well as members, and we look forward to updating you on increased opening hours, a new menu and social events.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in articles published in the Drymen Reporter may not be the views of the Editor or any other members of the Drymen Reporter production team.

26th Drymen (Duchess of Montrose Own) Scout Group

Well, it seems only a few weeks ago that the schools were finishing for the summer and we were all looking forward to the summer holidays! Now, we are well into the groove and our Cubs and Scouts are back meeting every Wednesday evening.

To join the Cubs you need to be 8yrs old and ready for outdoor adventure each week. Boys and girls are all welcome and we currently have a healthy number of around twenty meeting each week.

So far we have been to a local bike park, learnt some tracking skills and enjoyed

exploring the local area. We are proud that over the past 18 months we have managed to keep meetings going and are one of the few groups to ensure the young adventurers have the chance to meet (when we were permitted). We will teach new skills every week from knot-tying to house chores, team challenges to individual teaching, campfire cooking to bike safety.



The rest of this year we will continue to meet each Wednesday. Cubs meet 6-7:30pm and Scouts meet 6:30-8pm.

We welcome new members so as always, don't hold back, come along and try out the fun for yourselves!

Gavin Rowley

As soon as we can find the space, we will get the tents out of storage and try and organise a few nights away camping.

Photo Left and below

Scouts tend to organise their own activities with the leaders guiding and encouraging to ensure the activities are rewarding and safe. Our scouts are a small but highly skilled group of outdoor specialists who can set up shelters and fires quickly to ensure even on the wettest nights we are kept warm and dry.

Ellis Flemming receiving his Chief Scout's Award in June



We have a great team of adults leading and organising activities, helped by some keen Duke of Edinburgh participants, who only a few years ago were Cubs and Scouts themselves. Thanks to our current youth volunteers: Tom, Tommy and Harry. Any adults who would like to contribute and share their skills with us, please get intouch.



A challenging summer for 'Drymen in Bloom'

We are very thrilled how well our displays have lasted this summer despite the lack of rain which has been a challenge. This year we also did the plants at the War Memorial as a request from Stirling Council, and we had extra volunteers to help us with this. Thank you to all those people who have given us donations and to all the residents and businesses who kept their own displays going over the summer. *(I'm sure I'm not the only one to have had visitors rave about how stunning the village looked, so well done everyone involved – your efforts really are appreciated. Ed)*



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Drymen Village Hall is Open

We are delighted to confirm that the Drymen Village Hall is open again to everyone, regular users and one-off events.

We have to admit we are still a little nervous, but we are having our confidence boosted by many of our regular users who are back up and running (Drymen Under 5's, Desta Laiolo Theatre and Ballet School, Retreat Scotland, Prana For Life, Sharmi Yoga, Probus Club of Lomond, Drymen SWI, Drymen Cubs and Scouts, Drymen Art Club to name a few). Some groups are not quite ready to come back however we do look forward to their return when they are able to. We do have a few extra requirements in place to ensure that all our hall users are safe, and we would like to thank everyone for adhering to them.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the hall to take advantage of the changes we have been working on over lock down.

1 - The main hall now has a nice new storage cupboard the help resolve the constant problem of where can groups put their items.

2 - After a great suggestion at the AGM, the hall is now the proud owner of a ceiling mounted projector and a screen in the hall. It is capable of connecting to

laptops/ipads for presentations/films. It also integrates with the Induction Loop system installed in January 2020. We would like to thank Colin Drummond of Drummond AV for his advice and installation of the equipment

3 - The hall now has Broadband and therefore Wifi for the hall users. It is available in all areas of the hall

4 - The hall has invested in some trolleys to help store and transport the tables. Hopefully this will help everyone's backs and also save space in the store room !

5 - A BIG THANK YOU to the Drymen Community Development Trust for kindly kidnapping the benches from outside the hall. They had the metal ends stripped and powder coated then replaced the woodwork. We hope you agree they



look very smart back where they belong. The

DCDT also installed a lovely bike rack outside the hall as part of their Active Transport Plans. It is great to see them being used regularly.

6 - Our latest achievement is a big leap for us. The hall now has a live calendar on the Community Website which was

launched in June. Information about the hall is located under the "Our Village" option or you can use go directly with the following details

<https://www.drymen.org/village-hall>

This online calendar also allows direct booking (click on the "+" on the day of interest and then follow the onscreen instructions), however our Booking Secretary Walter Hemfrey can still be called on 01360 660720 if you like the human touch.

The page also has links to all our user groups. We hope this will inspire/encourage more users of the hall.

As you know the committee is very small with just three members. We would really love it if anyone would like to join the committee to help with ideas going forward plus the maintenance /improvement of the hall. Do you fancy helping keep the outside areas of the hall tidy (The Drymen in Bloom ladies kindly look after the tubs but we do the rest)? Do you fancy getting involved with the social media side of the hall? If this or anything else that will make our hall a great place is of interest to you then please contact Jackie on 01360 660919 or drymenvillagehall@mail.com

Kind regard from the Drymen Village Hall Committee

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