

DRYMEN REPORTER

March 2022 Issue No. 89

Deadline for Next Issue 15th May

Editor - John Cameron Tel: 01360 660723

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



If Covid is all we have to worry about...

Writing the 'Reporter' front page is difficult (honestly!) even although it is only every three months (or maybe because of that) as I find myself saying things I've said in previous editions. This one has been even harder as it's impossible to escape the horrors of Ukraine being played out on our TV screens and every type of media. While one of the Objectives of the 'Reporter' is 'To provide a means of informing the Drymen community of local events and matters of interest or concern, without political, religious or other prejudice' we feel justified in expressing our support and concern for the Ukrainian people by displaying the 'Title banner' above in the blue and yellow of their flag as their plight is in such stark contrast to the hopes and dreams of the individuals and organisations featured inside. Sadly, in the world today, their plight is not unique.

John Cameron, Editor

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‘Class of ’82’ reunited

Twelve of the 16 pupils in Drymen Primary 7 ‘Class of ’82’ met up for a 40th reunion dinner in the Winnock Hotel on Saturday 27th February and re-created the class photo taken in the old Stirling Road school before they went off to Balfron the following term.

Three classmates were unable to attend (shown with an asterisk beside the name) and, sadly, Graham Stratton died in a tragic accident in Garelochhead in 1987 after the family moved there in 1982. However, he was not forgotten as the assembled classmates raised a glass to him at the reunion dinner. It was a night for re-living childhood tussles, rekindle forgotten memories and enjoy a lot of laughter in each other’s company once more – a night to remember.



1982 photo

Front row (l to r) - David Macmillan, Anne Johnston, Heather Allan, Moira Cameron, Emma Samson(*), Wendy Scott, Kirk Haggerty(*)

Middle row (l to r) - Ross Harmon(*), Graham Stratton(died 1987), Stuart Marshall, Bruce Duncan, Donald Bain, Struan Robb.

Back row (l to r) - Craig Harrower, Mark Berry, Graeme Brown
2022 photo – attendees in same positions as 1982.



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Women’s Institute

We still meet in the Winnock Hotel on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm and with the arrival of a new year, we are feeling more confident about our meetings.

We enjoyed a very good Christmas meal in the Winnock Hotel in December with good conversation, and from our Charity collection at the event, our institute donated £80.00 to Beatson cancer care. In November we knitted poppies and sent Poppy Scotland a cheque for £50.00. Our members are very generous.

Now we are looking forward to a talk on ‘Mercy Ships’ who bring medical aid to many parts of the world where facilities are not available. This is an open meeting - so come along if you would like to hear more. After Easter, in April, we hope to hear from Melanie Woods, and then in May we hold our AGM.

This has been a strange time for all of us, but we hope to continue to welcome ladies from the area to enjoy the topics of interest that our speakers bring to us and to enjoy an afternoon with friends.

Elsbeth O’Brien

Enjoy cards? Why not try Bridge?

Drymen Bridge Club, a friendly club of bridge players with quite a wide range of ability, meets for approximately another 9 weeks, on a Thursday afternoon.

Not only does Contract Bridge have proven mental health benefits but it develops skills such as strategic planning, flexibility in problem-solving, concentration and focus. It was declared a sport for inclusion in the 2018 Asian Games held in Tokyo, so bridge can be considered part of your sporting regime! And, finally, it is a social game which provides the opportunity for those of us without partners (and those of us with partners) to gather socially for a hand or two and some friendly conversation.

If you would like to join us or just find out more about learning to play bridge locally, please feel free to contact John MacGregor on 01877 387287 johnmacg@hotmail.com or the Killearn club via their web address Killearnbridge.org.uk.

John MacGregor

Kilmaronock Old Kirk



One year ago, Kilmaronock Old Kirk was purchased by a local community trust with support from the Scottish Land Fund.

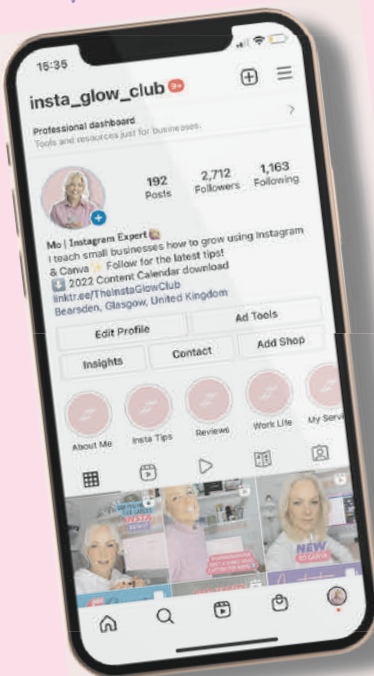
Kilmaronock is the parish at the south end of Loch Lomond which embraces the villages of Gartocharn and Croftamie and the surrounding rural community. The church was closed by the Church of Scotland in 2017.

A lengthy process of community consultation and feasibility work concluded that a community trust could successfully run the church, carpark and glebe field as a community owned venture. So as not to compete with the very successful community owned Millennium Hall in Gartocharn, the emphasis at the Old Kirk will be on providing a venue which has an arts and cultural focus. The graveyard surrounding the kirk is run by West Dunbartonshire Council and is still in use for burials. After the renovation of the kirk building, it is planned to develop the glebe as a natural burial ground. This will ensure the long-term sustainability of the site both in terms of its economic viability and carbon footprint

Visit our website www.kilmaronockoldkirk.org.uk for more information and contact details if you would like to get in touch with us. Members and volunteers are always most welcome.

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When will Catter Burn bridge re-open?

A Stirling Council spokesperson said, on 25th February "All survey and ground investigation works have taken place and it has been determined that the existing arch remains fit for use.

Discussions with potential contractors took place on-site and online and a completed design for structural improvement works is due for completion in early March. Formal procurement and appointment of suitable contractor will then follow. We will continue to engage with the local community and utility providers and provide updates on progress."

Food Shed

The food shed at the village hall will open again at the end of March. Anyone who wants to make a donation should phone Amanda on 661403.

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 June

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

15th May

Church news

It has been good to welcome back members of our church family and new friends who have been joining our Sunday morning worship at 11.30am. Health and safety are still a priority, so safe distancing and mask-wearing are still encouraged. Our singing has improved since the young musicians in the praise band have returned on several Sundays. What a difference they make to our singing - I'm sure that's not just my imagination!

We will have a longer than usual "vacancy" before we can appoint a minister, as the Church of Scotland is conducting a restructuring of the presbytery system to achieve the best configuration of the limited number of ministers available. It will be many months before we are able to install a new minister to replace the Rev. Alex Macpherson; however, we have been very fortunate to have a rota of ministers coming to lead our Sunday morning services. One of these, Rev Alex Smeed, has been especially welcome as he lives in our community. The good news is that he has accepted an invitation to serve Drymen and Buchanan churches as a locum minister, continuing on the rota for Sunday morning services and undertaking essential pastoral care. This will give us more stability and continuity in the coming months.



We will be celebrating Easter before the next issue of the Drymen Reporter comes out but details of Easter services have not yet reached my desk. Please check Drymen Church's website (<https://drymenchurch.org>) in April for more information nearer the time.

Start-up Stirling Food Bank

The next Food Bank collections will be in March, during the weeks beginning 6th and 13th.

Alison Brown



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Drymen 2021-22	Dec	Jan	Feb
Temp highest max	13.7	13.9	11.9
Temp lowest max	2.3	3.8	3.8
Highest min	9.6	9.0	8.2
Lowest min	-3.3	-3.0	-4.1
Mean maximum	7.3	8.5	8.2
Mean minimum	2.6	3.2	2.4
Mean temp	5.1	5.9	5.3
No. days <0	5	6	2
Monthly rain (mm)	102	82	222
Most in 24hrs (mm)	17.5	28.0	29.0
Days with >0.2mm	22	20	25
Days with >2mm	15	11	21
Days with >20mm	0	0	2
Annual rain so far	1191	82	304

Temperature shown in degrees Celsius

Meteorology Matters

There were no complaints about a drier warmer winter until all the 'weather' arrived in February. A series of deep Atlantic low-pressure systems caused by a strong high level jet stream in the upper atmosphere introduced us to Storms Corrie, Dudley, Eunice, and Franklin. As well as high winds, we pretty much doubled our February rain allocation accumulating 222 mm, putting the figure 4th in the Glasgow 60-year tables behind 2020, 1997 and 1990. Eunice brought snow on Friday 18th and by the time she had cleared off, the ground was absolutely saturated. The next downpour, 40mm overnight on 19/20th February, saw the River Endrick surge dramatically - by 2.6 metres - rising at 75cm per hour between 2 and 4am. Further snow fell on Thursday 24th when a fifth storm of the month, Gladys, had been predicted.

LB

(Much of the Vale of Leven area was flooded in 1990, prompting the then Provost, at a Park Authority meeting, to ask 'Where's all this water come from? I mean, it didn't just fall out of the sky!' Ed.)

Date for your diary
Drymen Show
 Saturday 28 May



Hanover house build on track

The construction of new Hanover housing homes are on schedule to complete in late Autumn of this year.

The timber kit is already in place at the terraced bungalows at Montrose Way and windows and doors will be installed next. The timber kit for the semi detached houses will arrive in March.

Dawn Connor

Equestrian Centre
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We keep horses at DIY livery and teach all standards of riders, but we are fully booked

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BITS AND PIECES

Buchanan Arms Bowling Club

Is there light at the end of the tunnel? We, at the Club, certainly hope so and we are planning a full season of bowling, opening day in the middle of April (date to be confirmed) with the club playing all internal competitions, holding our invitation competitions, and fulfilling our friendly commitments with our sister clubs - ever hopeful that the sun will shine upon us.

Last season we did get some bowling, mostly just friendly get-togethers so it will be good to look forward to a "normal covid free season." We have acquired quite a few new members but, sadly, we have

also lost quite a few old members. The present club membership numbers 32 paid members plus two honorary members. We could certainly do with more members so, come along and join us, or at least give it a go to see if you enjoy the game - the club has bowls for new members to use so, all you need is a pair of flat soled shoes.

The details and date of the opening day will be published in the 'Drymen news' part of the Stirling Observer and thereafter the club night will be held at 7.00pm on Monday evenings. Everyone will be welcome, and I look forward to seeing the bowling green full of happy bowlers, enjoying some great banter among good friends. Anyone wanting more information, speak to a member, or contact myself, John McKenzie, Club Secretary, tel. 07737859442 or email jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk

Annual Spring Art Show is back - 23rd/24th April

After three years absence Drymen Art Club will have an Exhibition and Sale of paintings again. Sadly, we lost a few members in the enforced interval but have restored the membership to 20. The members have continued painting through the Covid period and many have been learning new skills and working at improving their painting techniques online. As life returns more to normal some are attending classes at the art4you studio at Oakwood.

As a community-based Art Club we would welcome new members. Anyone interested should come along to the Village Hall any Wednesday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm to meet the members and see what we do. The Exhibition and Sale will be held in the **Village Hall on Saturday and Sunday 23rd and 24th April from 9am till 5pm. Admission is free** and refreshments, teas, coffees, etc. will be available.

We hope our loyal supporters and critics will visit the exhibition to enjoy our new work - the members look forward to seeing you.

Tom Gilchrist

Lodge Loch Lomond no. 1483

Lodge Loch Lomond will hopefully hold a meeting on the 3rd of March 2022, two years to the day from the date of our last meeting. Covid has certainly been troublesome and we have a bit of catching up to do, so this is an open invitation to the Lodge's many local members or any other member of our excellent organisation who may stay locally to come along on the 3rd of March to our meeting in the Memorial Hall, Milton of Buchanan at 7.30pm, you will be made very welcome.

Not a lot has happened in those two lost years and Grand Lodge Itself is now just getting going. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Bro. William Ramsay McGhee, has intimated that he would like the total charitable giving by Grand lodge and Scottish Masons to Prostate Scotland to reach a million pounds before the Grand Lodge Installation in November this year - quite a task, but it is attainable. Hopefully, we, as a Lodge, can do our bit to help reach that million pounds.

Anyone looking for information about Freemasonry in general, or Lodge Loch Lomond in particular, or maybe thinking of joining the Lodge, please speak to a member or contact myself, John McKenzie, R.W.M. tel. 07737859442, email jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk

Drymen Community Development Trust

You hopefully will have recently received a leaflet detailing our achievements in 2021, together with the Trusts plans for 2022. If you didn't, they are on the DCDT page of the Village website (drymen.org).



missed out, as there will be another chance to have your say as the plan develops.

Work is underway on the bus-stop refurbishment, with a new roof and solar panels which will power lighting and an e-bike charging point. There will also be a bike maintenance station and a mural inside to mark the start of the Rob Roy Way from the Square. Apologies for any disruption that you have/will experience whilst we work on this project.

Stirling Council have agreed to the approach by DCDT and DCC for an extension to the pavement area

between the Square and the main road. At the time of writing this we have been advised that these works, which they are fully funding and responsible for will take place in March.

We are pleased with the positive support

to the new Drymen Meanders Cycle Club and now have four newly trained cycle leaders. In addition, we have joined Cycling UK and have a Dr Bike day booked for 19th March – so please bring your bike along to the Village Hall (10-3) if you'd like a bike mechanic to give it the once over in time for the summer season!

During Spring, we will officially launch the new Heritage Trail, with a map, guide and accompanying audio. In addition, we will use this as an opportunity to celebrate the completion of the bus stop refurbishment and launch of Drymen Meanders Cycle Club. These three initiatives help deliver the pledge to improve Active Travel in the village.

We are grateful for all the support from members. If you would like to join DCDT and support projects like these, or have any questions/feedback please contact us at hello@drymen.org

Paul Saunders

Thank you to Forth Environment Link for their innovative 20-minute neighbourhood study. The results are currently being analysed and will help shape a new 10-year plan for Drymen. For all those that participated, we are grateful for your input. Don't worry if you

Rowan Tree Cattery, Windy Park Farm, Gartocharn

The Cattery opened in June 2021 and we are delighted with the response from returning customers and enquiries to having a brand-new cattery in the area.

The accommodation unit is from Pedigree Pens who design, plan, and offer great advice and it's clear their number 1 priority is cats!

The 10 accommodation pods each have two rooms: a sleeping room, with electric panel heater, an air vent and a shelf for relaxation, and a day room (which looks on to the "island") with shelf, scratch post and litter tray.

The "island" has been created from recycled tree stumps, pots, tubs full of wildflowers, a selection of garden plants, tree hangers, bird feeders and garden ornaments. The pussy cats can watch what's going on, on the island, with our hens, a couple of banties, our farm cat and a visiting pheasant all passing by.

We have 24-hour vet cover from Endrick Vets. We are busy with bookings and have taken our first Christmas booking already. Cats can bring their own bed, blanket, toys - some even bring their own food.

If you would like to visit the cattery or make an enquiry about prices or availability, just give Anne a ring on 07981358062 and she'll help you sort it out.

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New fruit and veg 'seed library' project

Drymen library is host to a new community initiative which aims to increase sustainability as well as health and wellbeing. The library will have its own 'seed library' allowing members of the community to take and share vegetable and fruit seeds that suit local growing conditions.

Behind the new venture is local food grower, Emma Calvert, who created the Food Growers G63 Facebook group for local and aspiring food growers to connect with each other and has registered as a Community Interest Company, with the aim of encouraging locally-grown produce in our back gardens – something akin to the wartime 'Victory Garden' movement and the seed libraries are a natural extension of that.

How does it work? The library will contain locally grown and donated packets of seed and community members can come along to the library, take the seeds they need (or donate seeds they have saved themselves), grow these on and harvest the seeds to share the following season. This system creates very robust seeds that are well-adapted to growing healthily in our community.

Emma said "I was delighted to have the support of Stirling Library HQ in hosting the seed libraries and look forward to seeing their popularity grow over the coming growing seasons. There's nothing more enjoyable than your own home-grown produce and creating a community around this healthy and environmentally-beneficial pastime where we can all learn and share with each other is so fulfilling."

The Facebook group currently has over 130 members who learn from each other by sharing local experience and tips, but the group is also open to those who are very new to growing or those who want to get started but don't know where to start. The seed library is live in Drymen and Balfron from 7th February and will follow in Strathblane and Killearn thereafter.

For those who want to participate, here's the link www.facebook.com/groups/foodgrowersg63 or contact Emma on 07908045439

Editor's note – a 'Dig for Victory handbook' was published in wartime and a series of 'Scots War Gardens' leaflets were printed in 1945 purely for Scottish conditions, the best of which is 'Victory with vegetables', which is probably the most useful and concise veg growing leaflet ever printed and is still relevant today.

Useful Info

Library

Mon & Fri 9.30am-1pm/2pm-5pm
Tue & Thur 9.30am-1pm/2pm-7pm
Sat 9.00am-1pm. Closed Wed

Mobile Post Office service

The Mobile Post Office service is available at the bus stop in the Square on Tuesday from 3.30 – 4.30pm and on Thursday from 9 – 10.30am.

It will also be in Croftamie at the But and Ben car park on Wednesday 3.30pm-4.30pm

RBS

Mobile Bank Stirling Council Car Park
Mondays 1.40pm - 2.40pm
Croftamie Mill Quadrant
Fridays 10.00 - 10.30am

Drymen Pharmacy

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

Balfron 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

Drymen Show

Saturday
May 28th 2022

www.drymenshow.com

Probus Club of Lomond

The additional Covid restrictions brought in after Christmas resulted in the postponement of the Club's Annual Lunch until April, but in person meetings have now resumed in the Village Hall.

Stuart Laing began the new year with a fascinating history of his family's jewellery business, now one of the oldest still operating in Glasgow. February saw talks by Michael Bolton-Jones who sought to demonstrate that humans are perhaps not

as special as we would like to think, whilst Nick Kuenssberg explained how J & P Coats had evolved from being the world's third largest company in 1900 to the specialist business it is today.

For those willing to embrace the changeable conditions, a leisurely walk around Luss and part way up the hill behind the village was an excuse for an excellent early February lunch in the Loch Lomond Arms Hotel.

📍
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We hope to see you soon!

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www.thebutandben.co

Drymen Show is on!

Strathendrick Agricultural Society look forward to welcoming everybody back to Drymen Show on Saturday May 28th.

We have a range of attractions this year, many supported by our local community.

In the Rural Tent the ladies of 4 local Institutes show their baking, flower arranging and crafting skills. Non-members can enter an 'Open' class which includes a Craft Class (Bookmark any craft), Flower Arranging Class (Arrangement in a Teapot) and our very own Bake Off (Rainbow Cake).

For young families, the School and Nursery Tent will have some great art and written work and a graffiti wall for the kids to make their mark.

In the Pet Tent you can pet various animals and see the Rabbit classes as well as 'Meet the Farmer', 'Meet the Vet', 'Meet the Sheep', 'Meet the Bird of Prey' and 'Meet the Auctioneer'. This is a great chance for you to ask questions and learn more about the animals and people who work in farming.

In the main ring the "Clyde Warriors Flyball Club" will give us a fabulous display of the most unique and exciting dog sport ever with teams of 4 dogs racing around their agility courses. There will also be a stand where you can introduce your own dog to agility. Dogs are always welcome to Drymen Show and you can even enter them on the day in our Dog Classes.

To entertain us throughout the day the main ring will host our Grand Parade and prize giving, heavy horse turnouts, display of vintage tractors, fire engines and cars, children in fancy dress on horseback competition, children's races, and tug of war

Our Champion Piper Donald MacKenzie will be on the band stage along with various bands, including our Gartocharn Ukulele Band. The stage is behind the Beer Tent, opposite our catering village and Sunshine & Shower Tent, where you can take a seat and watch the world go by.

Our craft and trade stands are always popular and offer some great purchases.



You can see how walking sticks are made in the Craft Tent which hosts the Walking Stick Class.

If anyone is interested in taking a trade or craft stand or supporting or sponsoring the show in another way, please go to our web site <http://www.drymenshow.com>

Finally, as the Croftamie road is likely to still be closed, we anticipate heavier traffic than normal on the Stirling Road coming toward Drymen Bridge. We're making sure as many people are aware of this as possible so they can plan ahead, and we are also in discussions with Stirling Council and the Police to hopefully provide traffic management on the day.

We look forward to seeing you all there and we'll make sure the sun shines too.

Primary school activities

COP26 Learning at Drymen Primary

In November, each class undertook a study of one of the 'Sustainable Development Goals' to raise awareness of the Climate Change conference in Glasgow. P1 were learning about clean water and shelters and worked in teams to design their own shelters and also looked at the quality of water in our own burn.



Technology Hub

The new Technology Hub Space is up and running! Thank you to everyone who helped to fundraise for the new resources which the children are really enjoying. This is designed as a space for creativity, fun and to support delivery of the Technologies curriculum.

Outdoor Learning

Drymen Primary was recently recognised by Education Scotland inspectors in a



national forum, sharing good practice in outdoor learning. Our Case Study can be seen on page 7 at the following link. <https://education.gov.scot/media/wonmplgv/learning-outdoors-23-02-22.pdf>

Get Right into Reading Week

Each year, we have a book week focus to celebrate books and to promote a lifelong love of reading. Activities during this week include reading dares, competitions and a special reading assembly. P5/6, our Reading Community Group, have organised the book fair this year and class activities to promote reading.

Patrick Robertson,
Head Teacher

01360 870 357

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Youth Café view of future village life

We are delighted that our Youth Café resumed on Friday 25 February after a two year break due to Covid with some new members from the current P7 class and some returning members from S1-2 keen to play table tennis, pool, and games.

Forth Environment Link (FEL) are consulting locally on the idea of a rural 20 Minute Neighbourhood which are places where people live well locally by having most of their needs met within a short walk from their home. Steph and Stuart from FEL joined us at our first meeting and collected ideas from our members, encouraging big bold ideas for a perfect village where they can get around with good public transport or by foot/cycle and have all the facilities and services they need. Many post-it ideas had the request for more buses in the villages along with the suggestion of that well known take away burger franchise!

Stuart from FEL emphasised that they really want young people to have their say in shaping the future of their village, making it a safe, sustainable, and fun place to live. Ultimately, village life for young people should be one where they can contribute to a reduction in car journeys and increase in quality of life that is better for people and the planet. In return for their ideas, the young people were rewarded with some amazing homemade pizzas.



We are looking forward to our programme this session and we welcome members from P7 – S4 who live in Croftamie, Drymen or Buchanan. If you need more information, please contact us at Drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com.

Lynn Armstrong

BUCHANAN CASTLE GOLF CLUB

OPEN DAY

Sunday 20th March

10am-1pm

Come along and see our facilities for yourself. All ages and abilities welcome!

Membership for juniors and beginners along with new member deal!

#FORE everyone

Scottish Golf

Buchanan Castle

Try out our course and driving range

Sample our new menu

Kids putting competition!

WIN a fourball in our prize draw!

Call the Proshop to book your slot on a tour of the club or come along on the day. 01360 660330

www.buchanancastlegolfclub.co.uk | membership@buchanancastlegolfclub.co.uk

Buchanan Castle Golf Club, Buchanan Castle Estate, Drymen, G63 0HY

Promises, promises!

Some of our new members have taken the step to formally join Brownies and Rainbows, this is a significant commitment from the girls and is celebrated with a party.

Taking your promise is an individual thing and whilst some like to do it in group with a party others make their promises out and about in special circumstances. A popular choice is to do it at the Drymen viewpoint but in the dark by torchlight, another is at Cashel with both feet in the loch.

Over the years Drymen Guiding promises have been made at Our Chalet in Switzerland, at the top of the London Eye, on boats, trains and at the top of a mountain in Mexico. However, the most outstanding promise making ceremony was for the 100-year celebrations when guides across the world all said their promises at the exact same time!

Although for many this was a re-new of the promise, for a significant few this was the special time of making their first promise. Were you one of the hundreds in Balfron high school that day saying our promise together?

We would like to say congratulations to: Anja, Alice and Olivia from Brownies and Emma from Rainbows on taking that special step and making their promises.

If you are interested in finding out about Guiding, please contact Rebekah at beccaemm@gmail.com

All sections meet on Wednesdays, during the winter in the Church Hall and in the spring/summer out and about at various outside locations.



Exciting future for the Village Hall

We have lots of exciting news for everyone about the future of the Hall.

There was a good turnout on Zoom for the AGM on Sunday 20th February. However, it was the end of an era with the resignation of the Chair, Guy Sendall and Booking Secretary, Walter Hemfrey. Changes affecting their personal and business lives have meant that they are no longer able to dedicate adequate time to their roles and they felt it was time to step aside to allow new members onto the committee. Guy and Walter have been on the committee for 7 and 12 years respectively and will be sorely missed. Many attendees repeated their thanks to both of them for their involvement in the hall.

The fantastic news is that at the AGM a new committee was elected:-

Chair - John Huxtable

Vice Chair – Esther Threlfall

Secretary – Fiona Coleman

Treasurer – Jackie Mackay

Hall Liaison – Amanda Reid

Please be patient with us whilst we all settle into our new roles!

Next great news is that we are now working with a social enterprise that helps support charities/businesses, to update our status from its old Trust status to a 'Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (SCIO). The main advantage is that it will give the trustees 'limited liability' protection, something which they don't have at present. We really appreciate Community Enterprise's hard work in steering us through all the various legal issues.

Another huge piece of exciting news is that we have been successful in receiving funding from Stirling Long Term

Unemployed Job Creation Scheme and the National Lottery Community Fund to fund a paid position of a Hall Coordinator based in the hall. The funding requires that this position be for someone who has been unemployed for more than 12 months, is over 25 years old and will help them back to employment. Over the last few years, we have struggled to get volunteers to help with the day to day needs of the hall and hopefully this new position will benefit the existing hall users and help develop the hall to create new events in the hall which involve more of our local community as possible. We are working on the job description details so, keep your eyes open for the position being advertised in the near future.

We will also be recruiting a new hall cleaner as, due to changes in family circumstances, our lovely cleaner Clare has, unfortunately had to leave us - we will miss the sparkle she put on our hall. Watch out for this advert too.

On another positive note, the new online calendar and booking system is working well and in addition to our regular users (which includes the Bridge Club again) we are attracting a good quantity of new users for one off events or a series of events.

The calendar is within the Village Hall page of our local community website www.drymen.org (run by Drymen Community Development Trust)

This online calendar also allows direct booking (click on the "+" on the day of interest and then follow the onscreen instructions). The page also has links to all our user groups.

It is lovely to bring you all such positive news about the Drymen Village Hall and we look forward to seeing you in the hall soon.

Kind regards from the Drymen Village Hall Committee

Adventurous Cubs and Scouts

Drymen Cubs and Scouts continue to meet on a Wednesday evening.

Our Cub Pack is now nearly 30 boys and girls (aged 8-11 yrs.) meeting weekly and enjoying new experiences and activities. We had our first night away in February when the Cubs and Scouts enjoyed a Friday night in Cashel Forest Centre, ensuring a dry night during one of the liveliest weather nights we have experienced this winter. The Scouts managed to hike, in the dark, to the



location which was a great way to confirm the navigation skills they have been learning. Luckily, we had access to a large barn which enabled

everyone to avoid the worst of the rain during the Saturday activities. Next weekend away is end of March!

Many thanks to the local firefighter who visited the Cubs and gave them useful and life enhancing insight into the work of the emergency services, how to save lives and the correct responses to fire alarms and fire.

Scouts are a smaller group of 11-14 yr. olds and are currently working on outdoor skills.

We were awarded a £1000 grant from SPAR Scotland recently and we are very grateful for this boost to our funds. Spar is our local shop and supports us in many ways. We try and get all our food for our camps and activities using Drymen shops, primarily Spar and McDonald butchers. A very big "Thank You" for your continued support to the Young Adventurers of Drymen Cubs and Scouts.

Gavin Rowley



Stirling/ Gartness Road housing development

Mactaggart and Mickel Homes have confirmed that ground works for the planned development on the McGregor's Brae site is to start in May.

(Presumably this means creating the 'temporary' car park in the field east of Ardmore Gardens and, on completion, closing the existing Stirling Road car park. Ed.)

An update on the phasing of the development will be delivered at a future community council meeting, date to be arranged.

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.

History Society end of season talk and AGM

24 March 2022. Carol Primrose will give an illustrated talk, 'The Vale of Tears: coal mining in Scotland and the Cadder pit disaster of 1913'.

28 April 2022 is our popular Members' Night, featuring short talks by members of the Society, including a viewing of the film taken at Buchanan Castle for the TV series, 'Abandoned engineering'.

Meetings are held in Drymen Village Hall at 7.45 pm, except for the Members' Night in April, which commences with cheese and wine at 7.15 pm. Annual subscription £7 payable in September. Visitors welcome £2 for attendance at a single meeting. For more information visit our website at www.drymen-history.org.uk.

Margaret Harrison, Hon Secretary

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Busy Needles and Bright Threads

After two long Covid years, Strathendrick Stitchers are once again able to hold our 'annual' exhibition. We will be back as usual in the Drymen Library, from 17 March until 12 April during usual library hours. So, mark your calendars. We'd love to see you and show you what we've been doing all this time.

The Glasgow Society of Women Artists held their 2021 exhibition at the Maclaurin Gallery in Ayr between November 2021 and January 2022 and their 'McCreadie Award for Embroidery' was won by Strathendrick Stitchers' long-time member Maggie Murray with a textile piece 'Sea Gull's View of Lochgair.' We are delighted for this well-deserved recognition of her beautiful work. See it here: www.themaclaurin.org.uk/the-glasgow-society-of-women-artists-2021-exhibition-winners.

Members will also be looking forward to the Scottish Stitch & Textile inaugural 'Gathering' in April, which promises a wonderful day of craft and book stalls, and interesting speakers. Plus, there will be an award of prizes for the first members' competition, 'Myths and Legends.' Promises to be a grand day out.

May is shaping up to be a busy month. Members have their own annual outing to enjoy, this year to the Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries to take in the Triennial Exhibition 'Threads of Hope.' If past exhibitions here are anything to go by, this one promises to be a real creative shot in the arm.

Our AGM is also in May, not to mention Strath Stitchers' own competition with the appropriate theme of 'New Beginnings.' Who will be awarded the much-coveted Quaich in this first – and very successful – year of independence?

Drymen Community Council

The Council continues to be busy representing the local community and are pleased to have supported Drymen Community Development Trust with their drive to have the pavement along the front of The Square extended. We continue to sit on the National Park's East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group. Each month we liaise with the elected councillors, National Park Authority, Stirling Council and local police on behalf of residents. We also continue to consider local planning applications and submit responses to the National Park Authority.

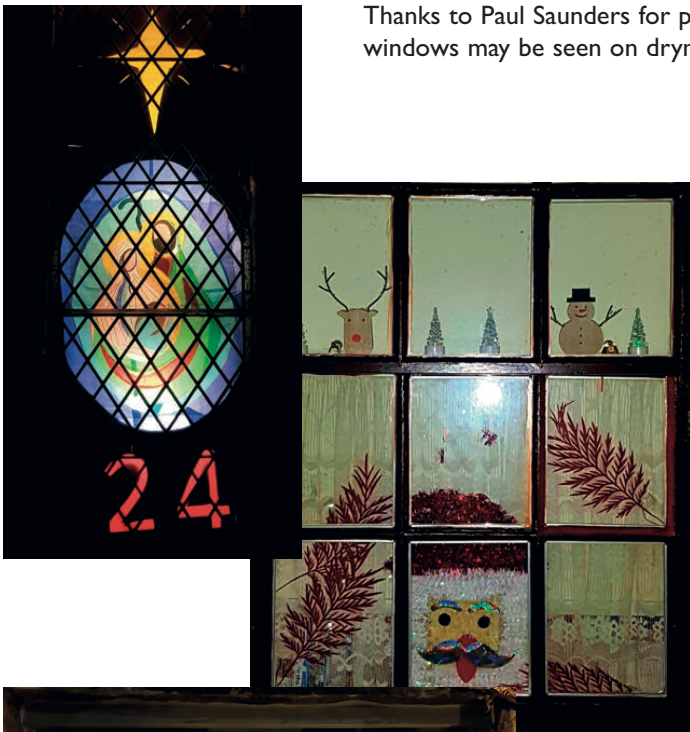
Currently, we have vacancies for two new community councillors so, if you would like to join us, please email drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com to find out more.

Andrew Richardson, Secretary



Advent windows

Well done to everyone who decorated their windows and gardens as part of the Trust's 'Advent Windows' project with some serious imagination and work going into some. If everyone who took part enjoyed it as much as outside viewers, it will certainly have been a real success. Thanks to Paul Saunders for photographs. All 25 windows may be seen on drymen.org.



Senior Citizens' Association

It's hard to believe that we've already reached March and Spring; isn't it great to see the snowdrops in all their glory, and crocuses and daffodils appearing? In these troubled times I reckon we all need something to lift our spirit.

We've something a wee bit different for our March 15th meeting in the Village Hall at 2pm when the folks from the Village Hub are coming along to tell us a bit about what they do, and the wee changes we can perhaps make to help our environment - as usual it is. Now, as secretary I'm afraid I had a bit of a dippy oversight when typing up the syllabuses as I haven't included our April meeting! It's on Tuesday 19th April at 2pm and will be our AGM (back at its normal time of year) and a wee bit of entertainment afterwards. We hope to have an outing of some sort in May, but the details will be decided collectively at the March meeting.

If you're over 60 and fancy a wee bit of company, please come along and see us - there's a warm welcome awaiting!

Linda More