

# DRYMEN REPORTER

June 2022 Issue No. 90

Deadline for next issue 15 August

Editor - John Cameron

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



## The Return of 'The Show'!

**Horse-jumping on the front page? It must be Drymen Show!** What a pleasure it is to report on a successful Show again – it's been a regular feature of Drymen life for so many people and was sadly missed in the last few years. Well done to everyone involved in the organisation and management on the day – your hard work really paid off. (PS – can the 'Weather Whisperer' you obviously employed please start working again?)

It never fails to amaze me that we manage to fill 16 pages every three months with items of local interest, but we do, and we really appreciate every article, no matter how small. I apologise if your article has been edited but it's often necessary to fit articles to the available space.

I keep saying "We have a packed issue this time" but this one is so close to the limit that we were beginning to think we might need to add more pages as groups start to get back to some sort of normality. It's definitely an issue to cheer you up and, possibly, like me, make you say to yourself "I wouldn't mind a go at that" as you see some of the activities featured inside.

Enjoy this issue and, if you have a story or something you think might interest people, please get in touch.

John Cameron, Editor

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# Drymen Church news

## Church services

Our Sunday morning services are at 11.30am and we're always pleased to welcome newcomers to the community. While there is no longer a legal obligation to wear masks, we encourage social distancing as a consideration to those who feel more comfortable with that. We're fortunate to have the Rev. Alex Smeed as our locum minister, providing continuity in the long months of the "vacancy" before we can call a minister. Recordings of our services available on the Drymen Church web site.

There is provision for children during the Sunday morning service. Plans are in hand for a crèche, but in the short term any younger children would be welcome to join K4C in the Annex.

## Start-up Stirling Food Bank

Please bring contributions for the Food Bank to the Church on Sundays 5th and 12th of June. The need for this support is as great as ever and our contributions are much appreciated.



## Your Church for Your Community

Drymen Church now has a dedicated Pastoral Team to serve local community needs.

*Practical* - lifts to medical appointments, home cooked meals for those in a crisis

*Emotional* - friendly confidential listening and support

*Spiritual* - prayer for you and your family.

Please use us, we're here to serve you.

(Initial contact, Mairi Van Looy 07929 110765)

**Alison Brown**

## DRYMEN VILLAGE HALL CO-ORDINATOR

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# Community Council

Since our last update many local residents have again contacted us for advice and guidance on a wide variety of local issues, including fly-tipping and the increase in traffic on Balfunning Road and we have provided funding to Drymen In Bloom and a local community event to celebrate the Jubilee. We are also working hard, with partner organisations, to try and find a way to provide public toilets in the village.

As the statutory body representing the Drymen community, we continue to; support the Development Trust with their programme of improvements to the Village Square; consider local planning issues and applications; represent Drymen on the National Park Authority's Visitor Management Group and are consulted on the Loch Lomond Water Byelaws review.

We are currently looking for new community councillors and people to help us with our workload. If you want to find out more, please email [drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com) or message us via our Facebook page. Thank you.

**Andrew Richardson, Secretary,  
Drymen Community Council**

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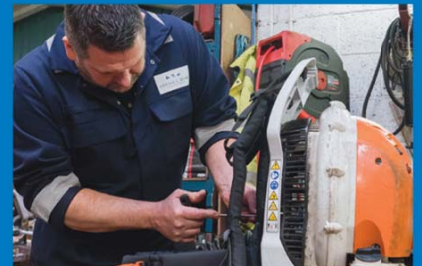
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# ‘Surgery on your doorstep’ NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

- headline in June edition of ‘Community Advertiser’

(It would certainly give the neighbours something to talk about but, I think I’d rather go to hospital - the midges here are terrible!)

# Croftamie Bridge repair

A Stirling Council spokesperson was contacted a few days ago and said: ‘Design work associated with Catterburn Bridge is now complete and the procedure to appoint a contractor is underway, with project award expected to take place in June’. So no estimate of when it will be reopened.

## THE CLACHAN INN

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## 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](mailto: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](http://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 Sept

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

# 15th Aug

# Aileen wins Award for Best Picture

Drymen Art Club's recent Annual Exhibition in the Village Hall, with 140 paintings by local artists, attracted almost 300 visitors over three days and, with 37 paintings sold, the exhibition was deemed a great success. This community-based art club has consistently maintained a high standard of work and, despite the restrictions of the coronavirus lockdown the members have continued working. People attending the exhibition agreed that the general standard was even higher this year, with some excellent paintings. The unsold paintings will be available to buy at the 'One Day Sale' in the Winnock Hotel on Saturday 26th November

Over the three days visitors enter a ballot to vote on the best painting in the Exhibition and the artist providing the 'best in show' painting wins the much sought-after Wendy Shuker silver salver. The worthy winner was Aileen Semple with her pastel picture '...and the working day begins'. Her picture of a bus in the city, with the early morning, low sunshine reflecting off the wet grey street, highlighted by the reflection on the bus windows, captures the atmosphere perfectly.

The success of the show is not just to display the members' work but also raises awareness of the opportunity, for people with an interest in drawing and painting, to come



together to paint, in the Village Hall, on Wednesday afternoons over the winter and we're delighted a number of visitors showed an interest in joining next season.

After a summer recess we start again on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Anyone interested in joining should come along to the Village Hall any Wednesday between 1pm and 4pm to meet the members and see what we do. For more information see the 'Discover Drymen' website at <http://www.drymen.org>

**Tom Gilchrist, Secretary**



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# Meteorology Matters

Drymen 2022	Mar	Apr	May
Temp highest max	18.9	19.7	18.4
Temp lowest max	8.2	8.5	12.1
Highest min	7.5	10.6	11.6
Lowest min	-4.4	-2.6	4.0
Mean maximum	11.8	13.9	15.7
Mean minimum	1.3	4.6	8.3
Mean temp	6.0	8.9	11.5
No. days <0	10	5	0
Monthly rain (mm)	49	39	72
Most in 24hrs (mm)	15.2	11.8	20.3
Days with >0.2mm	14	11	20
Days with >2mm	9	6	11
Days with >20mm	0	0	1
Annual rain so far	353	392	464

Temperature shown in degrees Celsius

**On the whole, Spring 2022 was a warmer and drier affair than average.** This was almost surprising given the number of air frosts during March and April - there were 15 altogether, and the 60-year Glasgow records show only 1962, 1969 and 2013 produced more over the same period. UK sunshine has been recorded by the Met Office since 1919 and March provided an all-time Scottish record of 160 hours, 62% up on the usual. A high pressure system had stabilised over Britain and, whilst the daytime maximum temperatures for Drymen that month were actually up 2.5°C on the norm, clear skies and some particularly sharp frosts at the start of the month depressed overnight figures by 1.5°C, putting March nights on a par with mid-Winter conditions. Lots of sun meant less rain clouds and precipitation was down 50%. April was dry and mild. May was characterised by a lack of sun - just a measly third of what is hoped for – except for the Drymen Show Day!.

LB

## Drymen Cycle Meanders

**Cycling is a great way to keep active, meet new people and explore your local area.** Drymen Cycle Meanders are sociable bike rides on the paths and quiet roads around Drymen. Get out for a chat, some fresh air and, with luck, a café stop for coffee and cake!

We meet at the Village Square every Tuesday morning at 10. Rides typically take 1-2 hours, are led by qualified ride leaders and are free. Everyone is welcome – all that is required is

a working bike (or e-bike) and a helmet.

Over the summer we are hoping to also get out for some evening and weekend rides, which we'll post up on our Facebook and WhatsApp groups (see below for details).

We also have two e-bikes available for free loan to Drymen residents. Loans are typically for around 10 days – plenty of time to get out and explore the local area! Please get in touch if you'd like to borrow them.



To keep up with local cycling activities, please join our Drymen Cycle Meanders Facebook group (use the QR link here or search for it on Facebook and ask to join). Alternatively, you can email me (Richard) at [secretary@drymen.org](mailto:secretary@drymen.org) and ask to join our email list or WhatsApp group.

## Any excuse for a party!

Balmaha Road residents got together for a street party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In lovely sunshine we enjoyed meeting neighbours, listening to live music, and sharing homemade goodies. £175 was raised on the day and donated to Robin House in Balloch.



# BITS AND PIECES

## Probus Club of Lomond

**A full season of talks and walks concluded with the Probus Club of Lomond's AGM at the end of April.** For the first time since 2019 the outgoing Chairman Peter Semple was able to physically hand over the chain of office to John Carruthers who was elected Chairman for season 22-23. Following the AGM, members learned about various projects undertaken by Strathclyde Engineering for Development in Africa and the Indian sub-continent. March and April saw talks on the less well-known story of the support party for Ernest Shackleton's 1914-17 Antarctic Expedition, Rhu's Glenarn Gardens and

developments in the provision of clean water.

The Annual Lunch, cancelled in January because of Covid, finally took place in the Winnock Hotel at the start of April whilst at the end of March ten members enjoyed a gentle ramble around Dunmore Village, the Pineapple Folly and the surrounding woodlands.

Having learned about the history and development of Glenarn, at the start of May a group of members, wives and friends were given a personal tour of the garden's amazing collection of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias by owners Mike and Sue Thornley.

Thanks to the efforts of Alan Foulis, we were able to continue the Covid practice of recording most of this year's meetings for those unable to attend in person. All meetings were followed by lunch in the Clachan with thanks due to the staff for their as always cheerful and efficient service.

Probus meetings will resume in the Village Hall on 8 September.

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

## The sun shines on the bowlers

**On Sunday the 24th of April the Buchanan Arms Bowling Club opened for the 2022 season, the sun was shining as members and invited guests from various neighbouring Clubs gathered at the Green for the opening ceremony, and were warmly welcomed by President Mary Gordon, before she invited retiring Club member Jimmy Miller, to deliver the silver jack and the first two bowls of the new season and declare the Green 'open'.** Everyone then took part in a few ends of bowls before retiring to Buchanan Arms Hotel for a very enjoyable afternoon tea, all the food being supplied by the Club members. Our thanks go to everyone who helped to make the day a success, including the staff of the Hotel who looked after us in an excellent manner, which was much appreciated by all in attendance.

The Monday night 'aggregate league' is in full swing, and, on Sunday the 22nd of May, the Ian Brown Cup was played for, the winners being Bobby Rose, Paul Rybarczyk and Dorcas McKenzie.

If there is anyone, and I am sure there must be quite a few, who would like to, or who may be thinking of trying the game of bowls, please come along on a Monday night (evening, 6.45 for a 7 o'clock start) and you will be made most welcome. All you need is flat shoes, and we can supply bowls for you to get going.

If you would like more information, speak to any member or contact myself tel. 07737859442 or email jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk

**John McKenzie. (Secretary)**

## Senior Citizens' Association

**We have a varied syllabus for the coming year. At our first meeting on 20th September, Music in Hospitals and Care are very kindly sending us a professional musician who will bring music of the 1960's and 70's to us.** On October 18th we have a talk and perhaps a song or two from retired music teacher Liz Brewer when she tells us about the charity "Playlist for Life" set up by Sally Magnusson after her dad Magnus developed memory difficulties. On November 15th we look forward to local group "The Almost Credible String Band" coming along and on December 13th we have our Christmas Lunch in the Winnock Hotel.

Our meetings start at 2pm in Drymen Village Hall and we welcome anyone aged 60 or over; membership for the year 2022/23 will be £10. After the entertainment we have a cuppa, a blether and a raffle and it would be appreciated if you could bring a cup or mug with you.

Please don't let the title of Senior Citizens put you off - after all we can all enjoy meeting friends, being entertained and having a cuppa at any age!

Hope to see you on September 20th and in the meantime have a great summer. Should you want any more information please don't hesitate to call me on 660706 or 07990 540 510.

**Linda (More), Secretary**

# Community Garden

**Most of you reading this article will probably be aware of the Community Garden next to the football pitch which has a polytunnel, orchard and additional growing space, which is available for everyone in the local community to use.**

The aims of the garden are to promote and support food growing, to localise food and to support the community and environment.

The idea is for local residents to 'give what they can' and 'take what they need'.

You can 'give' by doing any jobs, such as

weeding, watering or litter picking, that you can see need doing. You are then welcome to harvest any of the food that is ready.

If you'd like to regularly volunteer and help with planting, please get in touch. We would also welcome any seedlings, compost, donations or other ideas you may have for this community space!

One idea that has been suggested is for a men's shed/club. If this is something you would be supportive of, please let us know.

There is also now an 'Art in the garden' class running every Monday for home

educated children and those struggling at school. These classes are intended to support mental health, whilst keeping with the theme of nature and food.

There will be more one-off art classes over the summer, open to anyone and we are also planning some more foraging sessions over the next few months.

For more information or to get in touch, please see our website at [www.thehubg63.org.uk](http://www.thehubg63.org.uk) or email us at [Info@thehubg63.org](mailto:Info@thehubg63.org) or [Facebook.com/hubg63](https://www.facebook.com/hubg63)

**Ruth Glasgow and Team at  
The Hub G63**

## Tea, cakes and 'tulip blight' - the joys of gardening!

**Jill Cameron recently generously opened her lovely garden in aid of funds for 'Village in Bloom' and raised the wonderful sum of over £300.** The weather was kind, and we were all able to appreciate her spectacular Spring blooms, as well as enjoying lots of super cakes, tea, and chat. Many thanks to Jill and everyone who contributed baking – so many people contributed that the 'left-overs' were donated to Robin House and Abbeyfield.

For the first time in 33 years, we have had trouble with our tulips - some have not flowered properly, and we have found out (testified by Monty Don) that they have 'tulip fire blight' fungal disease so they must all be disposed of, and some new compost put in affected troughs. We are also adding more perennials to our annual begonias. Thanks again to all our 23 volunteers.

One of our troughs outside Spar was damaged by a delivery lorry and we are grateful to CJ Lang who have been extremely helpful and have made us a new trough – which will be put in a less vulnerable position!

**Frances Lander**



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# News from DCDT

## Heritage Trail

Together with Drymen Heritage, we have just completed this project with an information board on the side of the bus shelter; audio podcasts on [drymen.org](http://drymen.org) and a leaflet featuring a map and guide. The leaflet was delivered to homes across the village. Thank you to everyone involved in the project, including those who recorded podcast stories as part of the Trail experience.

## Bus shelter refurbishment

This project is also nearing completion with new lighting inside the shelter, an e-bike charging facility next to it (both powered by solar panels) and a bike maintenance station, which, together with the Scottish Water 'Top-up-Tap' is being well used.

## Village Square

We are making good progress with the phased approach to improving the Village Square area.

The recent works by Stirling Council (requested by DCDT and DCC) have extended the pavement at the bus stop and resurfaced paths around and across the Square. The Council are, however, actioning a 'snagging' list which we have provided them with.

Still outstanding is the road around the Square, which we are keen to resurface, however, we don't currently have the funds to complete this and have been filling in some of the worst potholes as an interim measure.

Thank you to everyone who has provided positive feedback on the improvements that we have been able to introduce over the last 18 months. We would welcome new volunteers for the Trust and other village organisations. Let us know if you'd like to get involved.

## AGM

The Trust has its AGM at 7 pm on Wednesday 15th June at the Village Hall, including a presentation of the recent 20-minute Neighbourhood Study findings.

Please also join/renew your DCDT membership as these funds and support allow us to work on projects like the Heritage Trail and Village Square Improvements. Contact us at [hello@drymen.org](mailto:hello@drymen.org) or call 661029.



## Useful Info

### Library

Look out for pop up library coming soon which will be advertised with posters around the village and via the library online media channels.

### 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

### 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](http://www.stirling.gov.uk)

# Quilts for Ukraine orphans



**A few months ago, the ladies of Gartmore Craft Group thought it would be a good idea if they could get together handmade patchwork quilts to give to the 52 orphans from Ukraine, who were staying, at that time, in Callander.** Isobel Madden put the word around and before too long beautiful quilts were coming in quick and fast, not just from Gartmore, Callander, Aberfoyle, Thornhill, Drymen and Kippen

but from further afield - Alexandria, Wick, Inverness, Norfolk, Stirling and Glasgow with some ladies donating four or more! In the end, 73 quilts plus 10 mats and wall-hangings and a Manchester City Football Club duvet cover had been donated. Isobel delivered them to the children and their guardians in their new home in Edinburgh and they were overwhelmed with excitement and gratitude. What a wonderful outcome.

*Photo above shows most of the quilts in Gartmore Hall before they were delivered.*

## Stitchers 'up and running'

**Strathendrick Stitchers session for 2021/22 ended on a high note.** Having started our first independent year unsure of how it would all go, the group received two grants: one from Killearn Community Futures (KCFC) via the *Killearn Courier* to underwrite the costs of classes with two specialist tutors, Toni Hanley and Jane Currie, and one from Stirling Council to assist with start-up costs. These proved invaluable and helped to set us firmly on our feet. It is our pleasure to thank both KCFC and the Council for their generosity.

Meanwhile, we have enjoyed in-house workshops on specialist stitches and pincushion making this spring, as well as a fascinating talk about the history of the paisley pattern and shawls from Odile Hughson.

This year – finally – we were also able to get out and about. In April, members were treated to the first "Gathering" in Stirling under the auspices of Scottish Stitch & Textiles, who have taken up the reins from the former Scottish Region of the Embroiderers' Guild. It was an exciting day, full of meeting up with old friends, an interesting keynote speaker as well as much-appreciated access to traders' stalls for all-important stash acquisition. A trip in May to visit *Threads of Hope*, the Triennial Exhibition and Gathering in Dumfries' Gracefield Arts Centre was nothing short of inspirational. Most members could have spent many more happy hours examining the offerings from the three textiles groups which combined to mount this tour de force of an exhibition.

The 2022/23 session kicks off on 20 September at the Kirk Hall in Killearn from 10am, and the third Tuesday of the month thereafter. All are welcome, from experienced needle-persons (yes, chaps too) to beginners who want to try something different. For more information, contact Susan ([strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com](mailto:strathendrickstitchers@gmail.com)).



## Ballet exam success

**Pictured above are the six Drymen dancers who recently completed their first ballet exam.**

Their teacher is Desta and they meet on a Monday at 3:30pm. Well done to all.

*Back row L-R Eilish, Sally and Mia  
Front row L-R Aoife, Ruby and Molly*

### 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.*

# The Show is back!

What a fantastic day we had at this year's show, helped by some lovely sunny weather. It was a bit harder getting back into the swing of things after 3 years, but it was back with a bang, thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers who help run the Show and a huge number of exhibitors, supporters and visitors came along to enjoy the day and catch up with family and friends.



We had some amazing agricultural livestock entries in the cattle, sheep, Highland Pony and Clydesdale classes. Our President, His Grace The Duke of Montrose, kindly awarded the trophies and made a lovely speech in which he also recognised the forthcoming Queen's Jubilee. The large number of Light Horse entries were also great to watch in the rings as you entered the show.



The Main Ring saw a beautiful display of Heavy Horses; some entertaining Tractor Pulls, with several groups and businesses taking part for a

donation to their organisation or nominated charity, with a few (un)willing volunteers pulled from the Stewards ranks or the Beer Tent; an amazing display of vintage tractors, cars and fire engines, and the traditional children's races and tug of war competitions were, as usual, very competitive.

There were lots of other competitions and classes throughout the show; our Rural Tent with fantastic displays of baking, art and craft work from the local ladies and open classes for anyone wanting to enter a Rainbow Cake, Flower Arrangement In A Teapot or Crafted Bookmark; in the Craft Tent, West Calder Stick Club hosted a Stick Competition with over 130 entries and gave an interesting demonstration of how to make these beautiful sticks



Our School & Nursery Tent, one of my personal favourites, hosted so many fantastic entries of written, art and craft work from our local children it really was a feast for your eyes - thanks to Killearn Parent Council and teachers for their help in organising. At the top end of the field the local primary schools also



competed in a hard fought 5-A-Side Football Competition.

The Pet Tent was probably the busiest tent on the field, with lots of gorgeous bunnies in the Rabbit Classes, along with lambs, pygmy goats, rabbits, guinea pigs and a Shetland Pony to pet, and our Learning Zone where the children got to learn all about Bees from our local Bee School; try on real bee keeper suits, learn about Birds Of Prey and hear from a Vet, Young Farmer and Auctioneer.

It's lovely to be able to have an event where you can bring your dog along for the day and the Dog Classes saw some record entries and great winners.

At the catering village and beer tent we were entertained by the Loch Lomond Ukulele Band, our Champion Piper Donald MacKenzie and local band Acoustic Station and for young and not-so-young kids, a visit to the Fun fair was a must.

Overall, we couldn't have wished for a better Show. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and we look forward to welcoming you all back again on 27 May 2023

Wendy



# Class of 1959

Thank you to Marina Brennan for this Drymen Primary photo. She clearly has a good memory as she has identified almost everyone but, lack of space prevents us including the names.



# Drymen Youth Cafe

We have had a great session at the Youth Café this term.

By using Grants obtained prior to Covid, we were able to have trips to the Trampoline park – ‘Flip Out’ in Rutherglen and to ‘Laser Quest’ in Glasgow.

In addition to our usual Café nights of table tennis, pool and Xbox, we had a fantastic Art evening with Tessa and Sally from The Art Hub Drymen who taught the young people how to create their initials in the form of Graffiti Art.



We ended our term with a BBQ (indoors, due to the weather) where two Youth Development Workers from Youth Scotland led us in Indoor Games and we had some Primary 6s who came along for a taster of Youth Café before joining us in the new session.

The Café is now on our summer break and will restart in September for those in P7 to S4 who live in Croftamie, Drymen or Buchanan.

If you would like more information, please contact us at [Drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com](mailto:Drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com)

# Pupils run for girls across the world

As part of our support for the school this term, the PTA decided to organise a fun run to raise money for a charity of the school's choice, which was Malala, a charity supporting access to education for young girls across the world. This linked in really well with their work within school on the Rights of Every Child.

Sunday the 8th May was the day of the run, and a team of volunteer marshals were positioned throughout the village to guide and encourage the children. The runners had been given a race number during the week before and race

numbers and prizes were generously donated by the Highland Fling Trail Race organisers.

The children set off from the school playing field in three waves, according to age, and were enthusiastically cheered by the watching parents as they headed off along a course which included woodland, road crossings, along village streets and around the village football pitch before returning to the school for the finish, 2 kms later. As well as race "buffs", the children received an energy bar and a well-stocked bake-sale raised additional funds for the PTA.

The total amount raised for Malala was £707 and the PTA would like to thank; the children for their efforts; the school for promoting and supporting the run; the volunteer parents who helped on the day with marshalling, timing and selling home baking, and John Duncan of the Highland Fling Race who provided the prizes.

We're looking forward to many more ways we can support the school when we return in August 2022. Thanks again to everyone for their support to the PTA over the last year.

## Guiding on the Go!

Guiding in Drymen has had some exciting adventures lately, with two special trips. The older girls in Guides and Rangers had worked hard to complete Gold programme awards and had planned, organised and executed a trip to Alton Towers. There was a little help from the leaders of course since only Karen is old enough to have a licence to drive a minibus the right size!



since he is that old too!

The girls had a great time. We drove down and back on a Saturday and spent the whole day in the park. The Guides went as one group, and the Rangers did

their own thing. Everyone went on most of the rides, as the weather held out for them, rounding



off in a water fight on the pirate ships. Also, they all have a claim to fame since David Walliams, the author of many good books, was sitting at the table next to them for lunch!

The Brownies and Rainbows, not to be out done, had voted for a sleepover in the Aquarium at Lomond Shores. It was lovely experience with the girls getting a private tour of the aquarium complete with hands in the rockpool. We were then treated to hot dogs and popcorn at movie night in an actual cinema. Of course, the movie was fish themed with Finding Dory a big hit. The best part, of course, was sleeping in the walkway underneath the shark tank! The lights are turned down low, but if you open your eyes, the ever-moving sharks were just cruising above your head. Everyone had a great time and want to do more sleepovers.

The leaders have some achievements too, with Abby Doyle our new 'leader in training' who is a Speak Out champion, giving a presentation at the annual awards ceremony and Rebekah Merrick receiving her '10yrs of service' award. The Service awards apply to ones' adult service and many of our leaders also served as young leaders prior to that, as Rebekah did.



The Guiding programme is coming to an end for the Guiding year this week and we have held our joint Sports day and BBQ with the Cubs and Scouts; it is always great to get together with other groups.



and hauling equipment!

Guides will end with Midgefest, which we started last year. This year we will combine it with a Jubilee picnic as well as music and festival activities. Thank you to Sheila and Gilbert for letting us use the field.

If your child would be interested in joining any of our guiding groups, please contact Rebekah Merrick.

Text: 07789634433

Email: [beccaemm@googlemail.com](mailto:beccaemm@googlemail.com)

**Karen 1<sup>st</sup> Endrick Rangers**

# Cubs and Scouts enjoy the outdoors

**Summer term for our Cubs and Scouts has seen us out and about again in the local area.**

After several nights camping before Easter, we managed a trip to Auchengillan Scout Camp - you may wonder what is up the lane you pass as you go over the Stockiemuir Road. As well as camping we enjoyed an evening of grass sledging; a dry, midge free night and activities the next day; including rock climbing, raft building and rounders. Of note, it would appear our Cubs and Scouts from Gartmore are the best at hitting the ball!! Well done to Connor, Luke and Hugo who seemed to have the best eye for the incoming ball!

Several of our Scouts attended a large regional camp in Glen Lyon at the end of April. This camp was a great test of their camping and cooking skills as they

attended as an independent group, setting up camp and cooking for themselves. They have either proudly shown how much their leader (Tim) has taught them or proved that you can survive a weekend on chocolate and Pringles! They have not yet disclosed which option they took. That said, we all enjoyed creating menus and cooking on our new camp stoves, as we practised new skills before the camp.

We are off camping again in June for a weekend at Loch Venachar which will give all the Cubs the chance to try out lots of water activities including canoeing, kayaking, bell-boating and, I expect, some falling-in as well. *(Ed. – bell-boats are twin hulled open canoes which seat 8-14 people plus a helm.)*



Other activities have included a lovely night, bike-riding, in the local area. Thanks must go to Pam at Endura for enabling many of our members to try the new trails and for some to refresh their first aid skills - only plasters for minor cuts required!

We will take a short break over the school holidays and return again mid-August to our weekly Wednesday nights.

As we always remind you, we would love to build on our strong numbers of boys and girls aged 8-15, as well as any adults who would enjoy helping at our meetings.

**26th Drymen (Duchess of Montrose Own) Scout Group**



# Work progresses on Hanover project



**The site continues to run to programme, and all the kits are now completed.** We are nearly ready to dry dash the bungalows and, once completed, the scaffolding there will

come down. This will then progress to the semi-detached units and the scaffolding there will start to come down in the coming weeks. The bungalows' internal works are now progressing - on-site working to the Passivhaus specification on the project has been challenging for the site team. We have also agreed to some community benefit works to the nearby primary school and these should also be starting in the coming weeks.

There will be BT, SSEN & SW utility works (for the remaining homes) starting on Conic Way in the coming weeks. Once again, we apologise for any inconvenience/ disruption caused while the works have been progressing. Thanks for your patience.

*(Edited email from Scott Stewart, Site Agent)*

# Tatiana and Pasha – our Ukrainian guests

Scotland has a long tradition of welcoming people who have fled from countries like Ireland, Poland and Lithuania and others to escape persecution, famine or tyranny. The Conner family in Drymen are continuing that tradition by sponsoring a mother and son from Ukraine who have come here under the Government 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme.

Frances Lander spoke to them to hear some of their story.

Pasha (17) speaks fairly good English but his mother, Tatiana has some English. They have now been here for 7 weeks, hosted by Dawn Conner, having travelled for 24 hours, by train, from Kyiv to Budapest, where they stayed in a hostel for 2 nights before flying to Edinburgh to be met by Dawn, who had made all the arrangements for them. They originally stayed in Donetsk, in the Donbas region, before moving to Kyiv because of the Russian occupation of the region and also

the lack of jobs in Donbas.

When asked "How do you like being in Drymen?" they replied "We are so happy and grateful to the people of Drymen, and Dawn in particular, for making us feel so welcome. It is like being in a big family".

They have wasted no time in starting to build new lives here - Tatiana is going to art classes and has been to the opera in Glasgow. Pasha has started his final school year at Balfron and is doing gardening jobs locally because he wants to help other people who have been so kind to him.

"What things in Scotland are very different to Ukraine?" "The recycling, which is not done in Ukraine. The food - the scones, tea with milk and fish and chips. In Ukraine a lot of food contains buckwheat, couscous, beetroot and borsch is very popular."

While life here may be safer than



Ukraine, Tatiana and Pasha naturally worry about the family they left behind. Tatiana's elder son in Kyiv is ill with severe back problems and is looked after by her husband and her daughter, granddaughter and 85-year-old mother are in Donbas. Thanks to modern technology she is able to speak to her family every day by Skype.

It is a privilege to welcome Tatiana and Pasha to Drymen. We know that the Drymen community will offer all the support they require, and we wish them, and their family, a safe and happy future.

Frances Lander

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♥  
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#FORE everyone

## The Last Monster in Scotland



**Primary 4-7 at Drymen performed for families and invited guests their play, The Last Monster in Scotland.** The pupils were absolutely fantastic: amazing singing and performances for them all to be very proud of. The play is about the importance of self-belief, having

an open-mind and using your imagination, which our pupils do every day!

### Health Week

In April, we had Health Week. This year, the theme was 'Healthy Hearts Healthy Minds'. The children took part in a variety of experiences and workshops including mindfulness, heart-start, skipping, sleep training, mountain rescue, NSPCC, cooking and a variety of sports and outdoor learning activities. The most popular events by far were the mud run and den building.



support to Drymen Primary this school session.

**Patrick Robertson**



### Drymen Nursery

Work has started on building the new nursery. Nursery provision will move from Croftamie to Drymen on a shared campus. So far, the work has all been going to plan with January being the goal for the opening of the new building.

We would like to thank the whole community for all their

