

# DRYMEN REPORTER

September 2022 Issue No. 91

Deadline for next issue 15 November

Editor - John Cameron

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



Midgefest 2022. See P8

## Coronation reflections

With the death of the Queen and the Accession of King Charles, I'm reminded of the Queen's Coronation in 1953, which, as an 8 year old, I watched, unwillingly, on a neighbour's TV.

TV screens were 10" (25cm) or 14" (36cm - laptop screen size), the picture was in black and white, the room had to be completely dark and the picture was very grainy i.e. terrible! Spending almost an entire June day in a dark room, full of neighbours, who I then thought of as old ladies, trying to work out what we were looking at was, for me, who would have lived outside if I could, a nightmare. For the adults, who had come through the 2nd World War, however, it must all have seemed almost miraculous and the start of a new and exciting future. How very different from the future we currently face.

I was saddened to see the tennis courts at Strathendrick now being used as a car park. Tennis courts away from the village and beside a sewage works was never ideal but, at least they were there. Perhaps it's time to remember that the school ground was gifted to Stirling County Council for community use only, for a new school and nursery. Is there room for all weather tennis courts or is there no interest in tennis? Just a thought.

John Cameron  
Editor

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# Drymen Church news

**You are guaranteed a welcome to Drymen Church on Sunday mornings at 11.30.** It has been great to see the congregation growing as folk become more confident about meeting together in the "post-lockdown weeks. If you come earlier to church, about 10.45, you can have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat in the annexe before the service.

Our locum minister, the Rev Alex Smeed is now our regular preacher and is delivering stimulating and thoughtful talks each Sunday. Read about him on our church web site: <https://drymenchurch.org> and watch our church services online. Better still, we'd love to have your company in the church! Teenagers have their own 'Upstairs Group', and the children have their K4C group on Sunday morning. There is crèche provision for the younger ones.

## Start-up Stirling Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Food Bank on Sundays 4th and 11th of September. The need for this support is as great as ever and our contributions are much appreciated.



## Your Church, Your Community

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

- Practical – e.g. home-cooked meals for those in crisis
- Emotional – friendly, confidential listening and support
- Spiritual – prayer for you and your family

Please use us, we're here to serve you. You can contact us through the Church website at <https://drymenchurch.org/>

**Alison Brown**

## New Tutor for Drymen Art Club

The members of Drymen Art Club are excited to welcome **Iain McAulay** as Club Tutor. Iain, a graduate of Duncan of Jordanstone School of Art and a keen artist, will be joining members painting in the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons. As tutor he will guide, encourage and support the members as they develop their skills in the medium of their choice. He is already teaching in Milngavie and, as Convener of the 'Exhibition Hanging Committee' for Milngavie Art Club, he will be a great asset to the Club.

A One Day Sale of members work has been arranged at the Winnock Hotel on Saturday 26th of November. Many of the paintings shown at the Spring Exhibition will be available at sale prices, to clear the members shelves to make way for more pictures for the 2023 Spring Exhibition so this is a good place to start your Christmas shopping.

New members are welcome. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 28th September. If you are interested, please come along any Wednesday afternoon, see what we do and meet the members. For more information contact [drymenartclub21@gmail.com](mailto:drymenartclub21@gmail.com) or phone the secretary on 01360 660970.

**Tom Gilchrist, Secretary**

## Back to school

Last term, P4-7 put on a wonderful performance of 'The Last Monster in Scotland'. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and well done to P4-7 for an incredible show.



The children have settled in back to school really well after the summer holidays. At the start of term, we have continued to learn about the United Nations 'Conventions of the Rights of the Child'. The children have then used the 'Rights' to create their Class Charters.

Over the summer, the trees we planted in our school grounds have produced lovely and delicious fruit and we have already harvested some of the apples for baking and for fruit at lunchtimes.



We look forward to a great year at school.

**Patrick Robertson, Head Teacher**

# AMAZING DEALS ON GARDEN EQUIPMENT

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# Drymen Community Development Trust

**Drymen Community Development Trust's bus shelter renewal is now complete.** The final element is Cameron Reid's excellent mural, and the start of the Rob Roy Way is finally signed! A new addition to the tunnel between the library and hotel is a series of information boards from RSPB Scotland, and we are grateful to them for gifting those to the village.

We appreciate the community's support and positive comments for the project, part of a series of improvements to the Village Square area delivered by DCDT over the last 12 months.

Sadly, the road around the Square still is in poor repair, despite us providing some temporary patches. We have submitted several unsuccessful funding bids for this, but it remains a priority.

We enjoyed hosting three nights of Piping on the Square, which is especially popular with visitors. Feedback from local bands is that they have needed time for recruitment to get back to full strength

after the Covid break, so hopefully, by next summer, we can go back up to a complete programme.

We are liaising closely with Stirling Council as they seek to find a new location for the library, which we are hopeful may also provide a site for public toilets. Over the summer, DCDT met with a Government Minister, council staff and senior managers from the National Park to present the urgent need for public toilets in the village.

At DCDT's June AGM, Forth Environment Link presented findings from their 'Living Well Locally' study conducted in the winter (a copy is on [drymen.org](http://drymen.org)). Over the next few months, DCDT, with support from DCC, will produce a 10-year Place Plan for the village, using recent consultation, and inviting more input and views from the community.

The Community Place Plan will help us attract further funding to the village for improvements and services and help us get support from public agencies.

Recently several people have come forward with ideas and offers of help and support, which is helping with this project. We welcome all views and solutions for improving issues.

We are pleased to report that DCDT has secured funding from the Road Safety Trust to conduct a road safety trial in Drymen Square next year to improve road safety and introduce a crossing point by the Square. We will hold a public meeting to update everyone in more detail about the project towards the end of the year. In the meantime, we thank the Road Safety Trust, Stirling Council, Drymen Community Council and TP&E for supporting this project.

As you can see, we are working our way through several large projects, please help us by joining or renewing your membership of DCDT. If you would like to volunteer, you will be very welcome, please contact us via [hello@drymen.org](mailto:hello@drymen.org)

**Paul Saunders**





## 40 Years of local history

Drymen Local History Group's 2022-23 session will begin on 22nd September when Keith Bruce will give an illustrated talk, 'Are we nearly there yet?' on Scotland's milestones, way markers and journeys, from mediaeval pilgrimages to the Jacobite cause and early tourists. Bruce spoke to us several years ago on Bridges, and his latest talk is the result of research undertaken during Covid lockdowns.

On 27th October Pam McNicol, Stirling Council Archivist, will tell us about Witchcraft and witch trials in Stirlingshire. Tea and coffee will be served after this meeting to celebrate 40 years since the founding of the Society in October 1982.

David Simpson is the speaker on 24th November, on William Roy's map and the '45 Rising.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from September to April (excluding December) in Drymen Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This is our 40th anniversary session and we would like to take this opportunity to increase our membership. Membership costs only £10 per annum for entry to all lectures, or £3 per visit. All welcome.

**Margaret Harrison**  
Hon Secretary

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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

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 Dec

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

## 15th Nov

# My Old School

Five years ago film producer and Drymen resident John Archer met a young director called Jono McCloud. Jono had an idea for a film – this August that film has finally reached 65 cinema screens across the UK.

My Old School is a huge hit, with reviewers and audiences, especially in Glasgow where it's been playing to packed cinemas at the GFT. "The Glasgow audience in particular love this film" says producer John Archer "they've taken it to their hearts, when we screened it at the Glasgow Film Festival I'd never heard so much laughing in a cinema and they gave it a standing ovation."

So what's it about? Well, it's a feature documentary that tells the strange but true story of Brian MacKinnon. In 1993 Brian went back to his old school in Bearsden, pretending to be a teenager, although he was 31. And for a while he got away with it. You might remember this, if you're old enough, but even if you think you know the story there are twists and turns that are guaranteed to surprise you.

Brian gave the film-makers an audio interview but didn't want to be on camera, so his words are lip-synced in an amazing performance by Alan Cumming.

**My Old School** has been showing at the Macrobert, GFT and the Grosvenor and will be shown on BBC but there is no date yet.





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# Meteorology Matters

Drymen 2022	June	July	Aug
Temp highest max	21.6	28.1	26.9
Temp lowest max	12.7	16.3	16.1
Highest min	14.3	15.6	15.7
Lowest min	4.6	4.5	5.1
Mean maximum	18.1	20.2	20.1
Mean minimum	10.1	11.3	11.3
Mean temp	13.8	15.6	15.4
No. days <0	0	0	0
Monthly rain (mm)	102	60	78
Most in 24hrs (mm)	20.3	16.8	18.0
Days with >0.2mm	19	15	18
Days with >2mm	12	7	8
Days with >20mm	1	0	1
Annual rain so far	566	626	704

Temperature shown in degrees Celsius

**The weather has featured prominently in the news over the Summer: extreme heat, school closures, hosepipe bans, empty reservoirs, drought declarations, wildfires...the list goes on.** Drymen did not get the message. For us, June, July, and August were near average for both rain and temperature – a little warmer than usual, perhaps, but only by 0.1C on the mean. East Anglia's daytime temperatures were 3 degrees up on average. There were a few warm days here in Drymen, though, topping at a 'pleasant' 28.1C on 19th July. To put this in context (and it really was 'Best in the West') the east of the UK sweltered, with Coningsby in Lincolnshire taking the brunt at 40.3C, Britain's hottest day ever. Scotland also set a new record on the 19th when the mercury reached 34.8C just 85 miles away at Charterhall in the Borders. Whilst satellite images showed much of Britain to be the colour of straw, average rainfall around here kept everything verdant.

LB

## Drymen Community Council update

**We have been kept busy over the summer holiday period.** Communication and meetings with representatives from Stirling Council about the Catterburn Bridge and the wider roads and bridges network, have allowed us to pass on some relevant information to our community. The proposed introduction of beavers at the RSPB site near Kilmarnock has resulted in us being involved in the consultation phase of the project. Many emails have been exchanged with representatives of local organisations, who are both for and against the introduction of the beavers. Feedback received from the Drymen community, suggests that our community supports the introduction of the beavers. Additionally, the routine work continues, such as our intervention to have the overflowing bins within the car park emptied. Drymen Community Council can be contacted via [drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

**Andrew Richardson**  
Secretary

## Stirling Road/ Gartness Road development

**Mactaggart & Mickel's housebuilding division has been acquired by Springfield Properties, an Elgin based family firm with sites across Scotland.** The deal includes six live development sites and 11 future private and affordable sites across Scotland's Central Belt – including the Stirling Road/ Gartness Road site. Over the next three years Springfield will deliver homes on these sites under Mactaggart & Mickel's brand.

There is, as yet no indication of when work is likely to start on the Drymen site, although a new fence has now been erected to the east of the burn.

We hope the new owners will keep the community better informed of when work will start on a 'temporary' car park next to the Telephone Exchange and the existing car park, which will close for an unspecified period to allow work to start on the first of the new houses. Given the existing lack of parking, this work is going to cause residents considerable inconvenience and need to be kept abreast of developments.



# BITS AND PIECES

## Probus Club of Lomond

September sees the start of a new season for Probus Club of Lomond.

An interesting programme of talks began on 8 September with the intriguingly titled "What is Vision" by Colin Dutton. Thereafter the Club meets in the Village Hall on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. As always, members will be able to join in a discussion after each talk before adjourning for further debate over lunch in the Clachan. In the coming months four walks are planned to destinations as yet only known to the Walks Convener.

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

## The Food Shed needs donations

The rise in the cost of living and the current fuel crisis has meant more families are relying on the Drymen Food Shed and we are running low on some items - long life items such as tins of soup and baked beans, jars of pasta sauce, packets of dried pasta, tea, coffee etc.

toiletries such as hand soap, toothpaste, shower gel and toilet rolls etc.

**Donations of food and toiletries would be very much appreciated.**

We will be in the village hall between 11am and 12noon on Saturday 8th October if you would like to donate items. To donate outwith this time or, for more information please call or text Amanda Reid on 07811633968. With thanks.

**Amanda Reid**

## Buchanan Arms Bowling Club

**Where has the summer gone, great though it was?** By the time this is published the season will be over. The shadow of Covid is long and still with us and the season was affected to the extent that the Club Single Handed competitions never got played. We did manage to play the club mixed comps and one of our open triples - the winners of that competition were a triple from Callander Bowling Club, after an excellent day of bowling. The Club competition winners were, Club Pairs shield, played this year as a triples, John Craig, Chris Bilisland and Jean Leitch; Ashbourne Homes pairs, John McKenzie and Mary Gordon; Peggy Johnson Triples, John McKenzie, Eleanor McQuade and Christine Crawford. We didn't do to well in the Forth and Endrick league or knockout competitions, but there is always next year.

The season closes on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September when the Campbell Kirk Cup will be played for, results in the next issue. The club thanks all our sponsors, Drymen Dental, J. D. Bilisland, F.C. Robb and the Clachan Hotel, their support is very much appreciated. John McKenzie, Secretary, 07737859442. [jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk)

**John McKenzie. (Secretary)**

## 'Senior Citizens' syllabus

**Hello there, and I hope you've all enjoyed our summer break but are looking forward to some entertainment, a cuppa and a catch-up as we transition into shorter days and longer nights.** Our meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2pm in Drymen Village Hall, and our membership will be £10 for the year.

We begin our new season on Tuesday 20th September with a professional musician, courtesy of 'Music in Hospitals and Care'. As yet I don't have a name, but he or she will be giving us music from the sixties and seventies, and I'm sure will be a cheery start to our new session.

On Tuesday 18th October, Elizabeth Brewer will be giving us a talk on the charity 'Playlist for Life' which Sally Magnusson founded following her dad's challenging memory problems. We hope that members of Drymen WI will join us that day too.

Tuesday 15th November sees local musicians "The Almost Credible String Band" entertaining us after Covid sadly foiled our plans to hear them back in February, and then, before we know it, it's December and time for our Christmas Lunch in the Winnock Hotel - it's frightening how fast it all comes around!

If you're 60 or over and would like a bit of company we'd be delighted if you would join us, or if there's a particular meeting that interests you can come along and pay as a visitor; a warm welcome awaits. I hope to see you there! Cheers.

**Linda (More), Secretary**

# Girlguiding is back!

Well last term ended with our Midgefest celebration down in Manse bay and this year's theme of 'Platinum Jubilee' was enjoyed by all - even a light drizzle didn't dampen the girls enthusiasm.



Drymen Guiding groups held their registration night on Wednesday 24th August and it was great to see all the girls back together - they were very excitable and started the term off with the 'pencil express' challenge - Girlguiding came up with a list of ways girls can express themselves and there are three headings to choose from: 'Me as an individual', 'Me in my community'

and 'Me and my world'. To earn a badge the girls need to express themselves using one or more of these headings and submit their creation to their county. They could express themselves anyway they wished, drawings, poems, or manifestos for change! The results were surprising, delightful, and insightful and a good way to start their guiding journey.

In Girlguiding, every week, they choose what they want to do with their friends - from recycling rubbish into fashion to flipping pancakes or exploring world issues. Girls love earning badges which show that they've thrown themselves into a new sport, explored an issue or learned a new skill like stargazing. We work hard to make sure any girl who wants to can join Girlguiding Scotland, with grants so that costs and ability don't prevent anyone from joining us.

We help girls tackle the issues that matter to them, with our team of more than 70 peer educators running sessions across Scotland on healthy relationships and busting body myths. As they get older there are even more opportunities for girls and young women to make a difference, speak out and do things



which will boost their CV. We empower girls to become leaders themselves and their voices heard on the issues that affect them. Plus, our international projects take girls all over the world!

Girlguiding Scotland has two representatives on the Scottish Youth Parliament championing girls' engagement with democracy. Our members speak out on important issues from period poverty to ending sexual harassment in schools

We do lots of outdoor skills work too and try to go camping at least once a year. All sections meet on Wednesday nights, the younger girls from 6.30pm - 7.30pm and the older girls stay till 8pm. Until November all meetings will be outside then, during the dark winter months, we will meet in the Church hall.

Rainbows are aged 4-7yrs, Brownies are aged 7-10yrs, Guides are aged 10-14yrs and Rangers are aged 14-18yrs.

If you have a girl who would like to be a part of the Guiding journey, please feel free to contact: Rebekah Merrick - Leckie District Commissioner (Drymen membership leader) on 07789634433 or at [beccaemm@googlemail.com](mailto:beccaemm@googlemail.com).

**Rebekah Merrick**

## Strathendrick Film Society is back!

Put the small box in the corner of your living room aside and come and experience the big screen and big sound of a shared cinematic experience at a local venue. The Society will again start screening a full programme of films at Balfron High School, starting on 7th October, with Belfast - a coming-of-age drama written and directed by Kenneth Branagh that follows a young boy's childhood in Belfast, during The Troubles. The full programme continues through to the end of March with a variety of films to appeal to all tastes and genres: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, The Incredible Journey, The Dressmaker, Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid, and finally 1917. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website [www.strathfilmsoc.org.uk](http://www.strathfilmsoc.org.uk) or obtained from Killearn Village Hall, Fintry Sports Club or the libraries in Balfron, Drymen or Strathblane or by emailing [strathfilmsoc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:strathfilmsoc@yahoo.co.uk). Memberships are: standard £20, concession £15, students (16-21) free, single night £5. Refreshments will be available beforehand.

**Doug Ashworth**

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*(This article should have been in the June edition but was inadvertently missed. I apologise for this omission and hope it has not caused too much inconvenience. John Cameron, Editor)*

# Lodge Loch Lomond No. 1483

**On Thursday 7th of April, Lodge Loch Lomond held their first meeting after an absence of just over two years due to the Covid pandemic.** The attendance was pleasing and included Reigning Masters from Lodges in Stirlingshire, Perthshire West, Giffnock and Kelso and, along with several other visitors, they witnessed an exemplification of a Fellowcraft Degree worked by the Office bearers of the Lodge - after two years of enforced inaction, they did an excellent job and I congratulate everybody who took part.

We are now in our summer break, but the Province of Stirlingshire will be holding the usual golf, fishing and bowls competitions to raise money for local charities. On the subject of charity, in the last issue I wrote about the Grand Lodge of Scotland's chosen charity, Prostate Scotland, and the effort to try and reach a total of one million pounds by November. The present total is

nearing £900,000 and we are very hopeful that the target will be attained - a tremendous effort by the Masons of Scotland to help fight this dreadful disease.

The next regular meeting of the Lodge will be on Thursday the 1st of September which will be the Provincial Grand Lodge annual visit, a good attendance would be appreciated, it is not enough just to say "I'm a Freemason" you must be a Freemason in act as well as in word, a bum on a seat is all we ask, you have a duty to support your Lodge, and it IS your Lodge, without your active support the walls may fall down and that would be a shame. Hopefully I will see many of the Brethren in September and, as usual, if anybody would like to become a member or would like more information about Freemasonry I will be only be too happy to assist. John McKenzie R.W.M. Tel. 07737859442 email jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk

## Drymen in Bloom

**A massive thank you to all our 24 volunteers who plant up and look after their tub or trough.** We had a volunteer tidy-up day at the viewpoint and 11 hardy souls chopped down branches, scrubs, weeds and planted lots more heathers - it now looks respectable again.

Frances Lander



## Useful Info

### Library Now Open

Monday 9.30am - 1.00pm. 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
Tuesday 9.30am - 1.00pm. 2.00pm - 7.00pm  
Wednesday - Closed  
Thursday 9.30am - 1.00pm. 2.00pm - 7.00pm  
Friday 9.30am - 1.00pm. 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm

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

### 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.*

# Village Hall update

**Our online booking system at <https://www.drymen.org/village-hall> is attracting new users and we are delighted to have most user groups running again after the summer holidays.**

The new entrance to the Main Hall now has a new storage cupboard, lovely glass double doors and lots of notice boards. In the next few months, we aim to get it all painted and upgrade other areas of the hall to give a uniform look.

## **BIG ANNOUNCEMENT 1!**

We are about to appoint our Hall Coordinator, who will be in the Hall 4 hours a day, Monday to Friday – in the new office from 11am to 1pm with the other 2 hours to be based around the needs of users. The Co-Ordinator will support users, assist with development of

new groups, help with information on bookings, availability and events and will have their own e-mail address - [HallOffice@drymen.org](mailto:HallOffice@drymen.org).

Thanks to; Stirling Council and National Lottery for the funding to secure this position and W&A Scott and D&L Macleod for work within the Hall. We are also looking for a Hall Cleaner – ideally for 2 hours/ day Monday to Friday, before 9am or after 10pm, with the possibility of extra weekend slots. It would be great to have this position filled as soon as possible.

## **BIG ANNOUNCEMENT 2!**

Although we have many regular user groups, the Hall is still unused for quite a lot of the week. We hope to be able to open the Hall to the community to provide a warm, welcoming, sociable space for everyone to drop in to; have a blether and a cup of tea/coffee; check email using our Wi-Fi or sit and do a puzzle. Subject to funding, we hope to have various organisations popping in (to help if people need assistance with a variety of issues),

spread across the day, seven days a week. This is an evolving idea and if you are interested in helping to welcome people and/or help make teas/coffees on a rota, please email [HallOffice@drymen.org](mailto:HallOffice@drymen.org)

**Keys appeal** – we believe there may be a considerable number of people (previous or current users) who have Hall keys. Please check if you have a set of Hall keys and no longer need them, please pop them through Jackie Mackay's letter box (Creitendam, Balmaha Road) or to the Hall office.

The calendar for online bookings is within the Village Hall page of the community website [www.drymen.org](http://www.drymen.org) (click on the "+" on the day of interest and follow the onscreen instructions). Rates start at £10 per hour for the Main hall and £7 per hour for the upstairs hall (depending on the activity planned)

We look forward to seeing you in the hall soon.

**Village Hall Committee**

## Melanie's Games experience

**Melanie Woods represented Scotland in the 1500 metre wheelchair race at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last month.** In her words - "It was an amazing experience to race in the stadium with the crowds and I was super happy with 4th place against the experienced women in the race. It only left me wanting a better result in the future". She is now in training for the world championships. Good on you Melanie

**Frances Lander**

## Strathendrick Stitchers

**Strathendrick Stitchers meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September to April, beginning on 20th September, in Killearn Church hall from 10a.m. to 2p.m. - bring your own lunch.** Subscription for the year is £30. We hold workshops where you can learn different techniques as well as one-day classes and talks. We look forward to welcoming old and new members.

**Liz Hay**

## Back to Bridge

**Started Thursday 8th Sept at 13.00**

Drymen Bridge Club looks forward to welcoming back all our members and we would be really pleased to be joined by new players - with or without partners. The first week will be a non-competitive FREE week to encourage you all to return and to hopefully welcome some new members. The committee and some of the longer serving members will be happy to spend time with new players to the club to welcome them... so just turn - up you will be most welcome.

Although tea at the end of the session is mentioned on the Drymen Hall page we have currently suspended that until all players are comfortable with the potential Covid situation. Looking forward to seeing you all.

**The Committee**

## Catterburn Bridge

**Contractors have started repairs to the bridge but have not given a completion date.**



# Mackay Family Challenge

**Team Mackay is getting off their sofa to bank kilometres for the Balfron to Bright Futures Secondary School Challenge.”**

The Mackay Family have been out to “collect kilometres” to donate towards the Balfron to Bright Futures Secondary School Challenge for the local charity Changing Lives Malawi.

Changing Lives Malawi (<https://changinglivesmalawi.com/>) is based in Balfron and supports a foundation in the village of Ibuluma, near Chisenga in rural northern Malawi. They are raising money/sending donations of clothing, education supplies etc brings hope to a very poor part of Malawi by giving them opportunities to enable them to become self-sufficient. The 13,144km represents the distance the donations travel via The Bananabox Trust container! The challenge is for everyone to “donate” their kilometres (and everyone is welcome to join in) and travel 13,144km to match the distance the donations travel to get to this very needy community. The area is so poor that many children are lucky to get something to eat once a day and often have to miss school to work.

Changing Lives Malawi supports the Feeding Programme which now feeds 500 + children at the weekend. Some children walk up to 20km to get this one decent meal of the week. The Charity also supports the area by sponsoring nearly 90 children aged up to 18 years. If they are at nursery or primary school, then their household receives a monthly food parcel, soap, new/pre-loved clothes, a blanket and stationery supplies

In Malawi, secondary school has to be paid for. A sponsored child’s donation is used to pay their school fees, uniform, plus boarding fees as they can’t travel safely daily. There are not enough spaces in the secondary schools to take all the pupils, so some children miss out even if it can be paid for. Changing Lives Malawi is supporting the building of a secondary school, called Bright Futures Secondary School and we are trying to raise funds for it to happen!

Its creation would be asset to the community because:-

- 1 – An increased chance of a place at secondary school
- 2 – As the secondary school pupils board,

they are missing helping with family chores/activities.

- 3 – Creating employment in the area
- 4 – Increasing the opportunities for the children through education,

We started the challenge on 1st July and so far, the supporters have “donated” a fantastic 3,945 km – just over 30% of the way!

Please support us by:-

- 1 – Making a donation and encourage us to keep clocking up the km’s
- <https://gofund.me/dd3a1be3>
- 2 – Join in and “donate” your km’s to the total to get us to Malawi sooner
- <https://forms.gle/twQYfx7LRRrtvdhx9>
- 3 – Follow the charity on FB to see how we are getting on with our challenge
- <https://www.facebook.com/changinglivesmalawi>



- 4 – Share this article with people who might be interested in our project so we can raise awareness of the charity and its amazing projects (it does soooo much more
- <https://changinglivesmalawi.com/about/>)

# Drymen

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## The end of an era for the Winnock

As the Winnock Hotel passes into the hands of an unknown owner, in partnership with independent operator New World Hospitality, it marks the end of over 200 years of private local ownership of a business where the owners and their families have been very much a part of the community. Since 1989 the Warnes family have upheld this tradition and have not only become good friends to many people but have also been great supporters of local clubs and community activities. There are many organisations which have good cause to be grateful to the Warnes family. We wish David a long and well-deserved retirement.

We also extend a warm welcome to the new owners, as we welcome everyone, and hope that the tradition of providing hospitality and service, as part of the community, continues at the Winnock.

## Drymen W.I.

We resumed our meetings on Thursday 8th September and, having had a busy last session, we hope to enjoy a similar interesting time this year.

We do like talks relating to topics of world and local interest as well as less formal meetings.

If you enjoy crafts and baking, then we would love to welcome you to our meetings. If you would like to learn to knit or sew, or to bake a cake or even make soup, then come to our meetings or get in touch with a member. We would be delighted to help you with this.

Information posters will be in the shops before we start - so watch out for these. Further information from - President 660616 or Secretary 660436

## PTA 'reshuffle'

The PTA are glad to have reconvened for the Autumn term at Drymen Primary. After the first meeting of the term, we are pleased to have appointed three committee members to head up the team this year. Debby Burnett is moving from her position as Secretary to take the Chair. Amy Telford will replace her as the Secretary and Laura Gordon will fill the role of Treasurer. We would like to send out a huge thanks to Charlotte Wallace and Carolyn Rivers who, as Chair & Treasurer, have done a fantastic job. For any new and current parents at the school; if you would like to join the PTA or have any questions, get in touch at [ptadrymen@gmail.com](mailto:ptadrymen@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook (Drymen Primary School PTA)

## Autumn Membership offer at Buchanan Castle Golf Club

Join now and enjoy membership until January 2024, only £620

- No joining fee
- Based on 30+ age group, other age categories available
- Applies to new members only
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- Driving range, practice area and 6 hole academy course

Get in touch to find out more; [membership@buchanancastlegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@buchanancastlegolfclub.co.uk)





# New skills for Cubs and Scouts

Back after the long summer holiday (that just flashed by) the Cubs and Scouts are back learning new skills and experiencing new activities.



We were lucky to have Sean come and demonstrate how to carry out a survey of a local burn. Salmon, trout, and eels were caught with Sean's electrofishing

gear and the young adventurers could examine and measure the fish before they were returned to their habitat.

The following week Tom Gold kindly joined us for an evening in the woods, where we taught the Cubs and Scouts the safe use of knives and axes as well as baking some bread on the campfire.



The highlight so far this year was when some of the Scouts went on a large



camp with several hundred Scouts from all over Scotland.

If you are an 8–14-year-old boy or girl, you would be very welcome to join our activities on a Wednesday night.

18–80-year-olds are welcome to join us as part of our leadership team.

We said 'goodbye' to our Scout leader (Tim) who has given several years of his time helping the Scouts enjoy their weeks in the woods. Many thanks Tim - we wish you well.

**26th Drymen Cubs and Scouts**

## No 'Kip' for Frances on her run!

Frances Warnes (brave lady that she is) took part in the Altra West Highland Way Race on 19 June this year. She ran on her own from Milngavie to Glencoe and was joined by her son Michael for the last leg through the night to Fort William - something he says he will never do again! Unfortunately she collapsed from exhaustion in Kinlochleven and was recommended to rest for a few hours. Three and a half hours later she resumed her run and arrived in Fort William in 32 hours - what grit and determination. Well done to you and especially as the oldest lady participant. Photo shows Frances receiving her crystal goblet given to all those who completed the event. (For more information on the race see <https://westhighlandwayrace.org/> )



**Frances Lander**

## Drymen Youth Café

After our summer break, the new session of the Youth Café commences in September.

The Café is open for those in P7 – S4 who live in Croftamie, Drymen and Buchanan.

For over 16 years, the Café has provided activities on a Friday evening in the Village Hall and it has provided a safe place for our young people to meet with their friends.

We are expecting around 35 members this session but **we urgently need Committee volunteers** to ensure that the Café continues after Christmas. Volunteers would require to be disclosed through Disclosure Scotland and would be needed approx. one Friday a month from September to May ( excluding school holidays). We only hold 3 planning meetings a year. If you think that you can help or would like more information, please get in touch at [Drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com](mailto:Drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com)

In the meantime, we have an exciting programme planned for this session including a couple of outings and some fun workshops provided by Youth Scotland and we look forward to welcoming members old and new to our new term.

**Lynn Armstrong**



# Hanover housing nears handover!

Our housing development at Conic Way will be complete and ready for handover to Hanover Housing in early October. We have some further re-surfacing works to complete, which may cause some disruption to the local streets due to the amount of plant and men required to carry out the work. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

We are sure that the local residents will be glad to see the back of us! It has been a great job for us in the lovely quiet village.

Although this job did not include for community benefits, we carried out some work for Drymen Primary School to provide planters and play equipment for the playground.

Hanover are delighted that the development is nearing completion and look forward to welcoming back some of the residents of the former scheme and some new residents in October. The Passivhaus properties will use a fraction of the energy of the original properties, which could not be more important during these times.



**Scott Stewart, Site Manager, Crudens.**

# Green-fingered Ruby

Ruby has been growing sunflowers this summer in a family competition with her cousins to grow the best sunflowers.

Here are her results after our lovely Drymen summer. Last measured at over three metres tall!

**Gav Rowley**



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# Extraordinary fundraising

Hello again, with it being just over a year since I completed the West Highland Way Ultra run, I now find myself in a very similar situation. However, this year I've set myself an even bigger challenge. I'm attempting to run 20 marathons in 20 consecutive days, starting in Drymen and finishing with the famous London marathon on Sunday 2nd October - basically running down to London!!!! By the time you read this I will, I hope, have run several marathons having started on Tuesday 13th September.

A question that I seem to be getting asked quite often is "why?". There are multiple reasons as to why I'm taking on this challenge, whether it be the sense of purpose I feel when setting myself these enormous challenges or the enjoyment I have when completing something physically and mentally demanding. Most importantly it's the effect running has had on me mentally. Not only does it act as a release from what I like to call 'the noise of life', but when I'm out running, I feel completely different.

If you saw my fundraising page last year, you'll understand how important the subject of mental health is to me. All the money that I raise will be going directly to Mind, a charity whose mission is "to provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem."

Any support or donations would be hugely appreciated to support a cause that is extremely important in today's society.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/james-semple2>

James Semple



## Best ever Beer Festival



**A huge thanks to everyone who came along to this year's Gartness Beer Festival in support of our chosen charities - RSABI & Hearts and Balls - over 350 folk drinking beers, G&Ts, wine and Prosecco to help us raise over £10,000!**

As always this could only happen with the help of all of our incredibly generous sponsors and team of volunteers, but particular thanks go to Duncan Family Farms, who once again gave us their barn, Claire Pocock who, as well as helping to organise the volunteers, dealt so capably with all the finances, Euan Glen who was always there to do whatever was required and Kate Stockwell who

designed the glasses/ tasting notes/ promotional materials etc and makes us look professional....ish!

Big thanks also to Colin at Gilmour Sports Ltd for gifting us

the beer festival t-shirts to go with the aprons supplied previously - additional ones available to buy if you'd like an unusual birthday or Christmas present. £20 for t-shirts and £30 for the aprons.

As usual our hard working volunteers behind the bars & ticket desks were supposed to work to a rota but all of them stayed in place for the whole night.

Thanks also to the Team from Shellfield Farm for the food and the ever reliable David Fraser, at AFES in Balmaha, supplying the power and lighting to the whole event.

Big thanks also to our two bands Oldplay and Platform C who created such a great

atmosphere and our legendary DJ Johnny North who kept it all together and filled the dance floor at the end of the night - so good he got Shona dancing on top of the hay bales!

Keep in touch with photos from the night, sponsor details, merchandise available, cans of beer for sale etc at <http://www.gartnessbeerfestival>

- send any of your own beer festival photos and videos to [murraygwatt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:murraygwatt@yahoo.co.uk).

We've also got a few of the limited edition Gartness Beer Festival pint & gin glasses available at £5 each - contact Murray to purchase.

Thanks again for everyone's support and see you in August 2023 - remember our event is entirely wheelchair accessible for any of your friends who would benefit from this next time.

By far the best Gartness Beer Festival yet!!! Cheers!

**Murray & Team**  
**07799 778086**





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