

# DRYMEN REPORTER

December 2022 Issue No. 92

Deadline for next issue 15 February

Editor - John Cameron

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



Youthful Mask Makers, see page 12

## 2022 - a year to remember?

One of the advantages of producing a quarterly local newspaper is that we can ignore all the seemingly endless gloom and doom of other media sources – although the media inventions of titles like ‘Kamikwaze’ and ‘Lettuce Liz’ are too good to ignore – and we can fill our pages with cheerful local stories and photos of local people doing things for others. However, world events inevitably affect us all and it’s good to see local organisations gearing up to help others through what will be difficult times for many.

We rely on businesses supporting us through advertising and I have to say ‘thank you’ to our faithful advertisers and staff who, I’m sure, dread my quarterly (and sometimes last minute) email asking for updated adverts for each issue. The organisations we report on in each issue are, of course, run by volunteers who do amazing work, but probably didn’t sign up to write an article for the ‘Reporter’ four times a year and certainly didn’t sign up to being badgered for an article yesterday – so heartfelt thanks to you all.

Finally, my thanks to Claire, Frances and Jakki and other contributors for allowing me to sit back and wait for the articles and material to be edited to arrive in my inbox.

I hope you enjoy this issue - look after yourself and others and have a happy festive season and a ‘guid New Year’.

John Cameron, Editor

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# 26<sup>th</sup> Drymen Scouts

**Highlights of the late autumn for our Cubs and Scouts have been varied with some new activities as well as some old favourites.**

The Scouts were appreciative of a donation of some camping gear, donated by a home owner in Gartmore who was downsizing - donations are always welcome and put to good use. In this case a rather dated style of family tent from the 70s was familiar to the older leaders but a real challenge for the



and re-packed!!

Cubs were asked to help out with a show being put on this year by the local ballet group and they have all managed to get

Scouts. That said, without the instructions and without a visit to YouTube they managed to get the tent unpacked, up

involved with an art project to create a "prop" for the show. We will leave you to guess the name of the car from the picture. A big thanks to Sally who visited from Art4You and introduced the cubs to various types of art - I think the watercolour painting was the most popular. In a rare moment we managed to capture a picture of the cubs indoors and sitting still doing their art. I can assure you this is a rare event as more often they are moving quickly and outside in the dark!!

We were able to take part in the Remembrance Service in Drymen and some of our Scouts also took part in services in Gartmore and Aberfoyle.

There are small Scout Troops in Strathblane, Killearn, Balfron and Drymen and we are looking at larger joint meetings to offer more variety. Strathblane recently invited the Scouts to an evening with the "Birdman" who brought along a variety of birds-of-prey for the scouts to learn about and experience the birds up close.



We have recently welcomed Joely as a new young helper for the Cubs. She is doing her Duke of Edinburgh Award and we have really appreciated her help on a Wednesday night with the cubs. Scouts have a new adult leader (Stuart) and a warm welcome to him as well.

We are always looking for help, so any adults who can offer any time with our young people please don't be shy and get in touch. Whether you can teach us a new skill, help out on a more regular basis or offer a visit to something of local interest, we would love to hear from you.

Cubs are boys and girls aged 8-11 and our Scouts are aged 11-14. We always welcome new members aged 8-80 to join the team! [gavrowley@hotmail.com](mailto:gavrowley@hotmail.com) is the best way to find us.

We all hope you have a great end to 2022 and a fun start to 2023!!

## Callander and West Perthshire U3A

**Founded in 1982, there are now more than 1,000 U3As across the UK where members come together to learn, meet new people and have fun within a variety of interest groups.**

At Callander and West Perthshire U3A a range of activities is on offer, from Ancient History to Scottish Country Dancing, from Current Affairs to Rock Music. Annual membership costs only £10 and you can attend as many groups as you wish for that sum. If you are retired or semi-retired, u3a may be just what you are looking for. Our monthly online 'Chatterbox' keeps members up to date. You may have knowledge or skills you wish to share with others. It's all about taking part, which reflects the U3A motto 'learn, laugh, live.'

The U3A movement also provides a schedule of online events, which can connect you with other learners, wherever you are.

Have a look at the Callander and West Perthshire U3A website for further details. It's not too late to join and you would be made most welcome.

## The Food Shed is still needed

**Nearly everyone is feeling the squeeze just now - some more than others - whether it's higher food prices, higher fuel prices, increases in prices for goods and services regularly bought, mortgage or loan cost increases or 'all of the above'.**

The Food Shed started during the recent Covid pandemic and has been generously supported by our wonderful Drymen community since. It is situated immediately to the left of the village hall entrance and is there for anyone who needs it, 24/7. Please help yourself.

Anyone wishing to donate packaged food or toiletries can leave their donations in the food shed anytime or at the village hall between 12noon - 13:00 on Saturday 10th December.

We are always very grateful to receive long life items such as: **Tinned food (baked beans, veg, soup etc); Tinned rice, custard, fruit; Dried pasta; Pasta sauce; Rice. Toiletries - Toilet roll; Hand soap; Shampoo; Shower gel; Toothpaste etc.**

Many thanks for your continued support  
**Amanda Reid**

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# A crafty collective in the old Post Office

**A fabulous new shop has opened at 15 Main Street, Drymen in the form of 'Conic Crafts' gift shop – a collective of over 20 makers of a very high standard and variety of handmade products including textiles, woodwork, jewellery, knitwear, pottery, glass and mosaic to name but a few – all of which are available in the revamped shop.** Drymen parents can also order embroidered school uniform items at the shop, which is a great local resource to have.

Currently the collective has members from Killearn, Balfron, Strathblane, Buchlyvie, Gargunnoch, Helensburgh, Glasgow, Blackford and even Strachur. Nine of the members form the core team, making all the decisions relating to the running of the shop and all members pay a proportionate amount towards the monthly rent, depending on their size of space and whether they are able to do shifts. It is very much a team ethos - sharing the



decisions, utilizing all the different skills and experiences to provide members with support to develop and succeed. Opening hours are currently 10am - 5 pm seven days a week with plans to open late every Thursday in the run up to Christmas.

For more information, visit [www.coniccrafts.co.uk](http://www.coniccrafts.co.uk) follow their Facebook page or call the shop on 01360 661021.



# Christmas Postbox

Thanks to Vicky Girvan (nee Brown) for brightening up a trip to the postbox for visitors and locals with her brilliant knitted/crocheted snow scene - what a great talent to have.



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### 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.

## 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 March

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

# 15th February

# Balmaha - Conic Hill footpath and forestry closures

Contractors are currently repairing/ upgrading part of the path from Balmaha to the top of Conic, but the path can still be used, however, it will need to be closed, for safety reasons, from January to March 2023 (estimated closure of 8/9 weeks). Further works will then take place in October 2023 to March 2024 to complete the work. Some 450 tons of stone have been helicoptered in (presumably this is the silver/grey line winding up the SW face of Conic which is clearly visible from the Drymen to Balloch road. Ed.) and a similar amount will be brought in for the 2023/2024 work. The cost over two years is £900,000.

LLTNP publicity states “We appreciate that closures are never ideal. To help minimise inconvenience for both users and businesses, we are carrying out this work in the winter months when visitor numbers, including West Highland Way walkers, are much reduced. We have also shifted the work programme to align with work by Forestry & Land Scotland to remove trees infected with *Phytophthora Ramorum*, from the Conic Hill path, which would also require closure of the path and car park. See footnote \*

During the closures, we will be putting up ‘Path Closed’ signs and Heras fencing at the forest boundary and at the Burn of

Mar bridge on the east side of Conic Hill. Contractor and Park Authority staff will be on site to marshal the helicopter flights and prevent people from walking up the path itself.

We will also be putting up advance warning signs at the West Highland Way junction at both Garabhan car park and the West Highland Way junction at the west end of the forest. The West Highland Way will remain open, but users will have to follow the low-level route down Creityhall Road to Milton of Buchanan and along the B837.”

\* Footnote - Forestry & Land Scotland has found this disease at 70 Sites across Central Scotland and access to some Forestry areas may be restricted – do not ignore closure signs! Ed.





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# Meteorology Matters

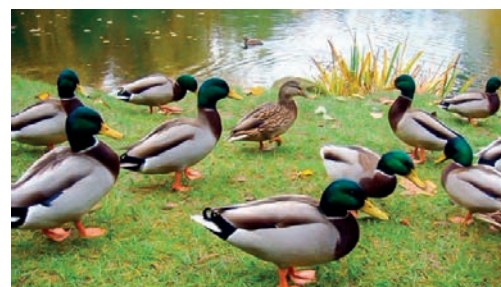
Drymen 2022	Sept	Oct	Nov
Temp highest max	22.4	16.9	16.5
Temp lowest max	2.7	3.1	-0.5
Highest min	15.0	12.4	5.6
Lowest min	8.5	11.1	14.2
Mean maximum	18.1	13.9	11.2
Mean minimum	8.9	9.0	6.4
Mean temp	13.3	11.2	8.4
No. days <0	0	0	7.6
Monthly rain (mm)	93	242	160
Most in 24hrs (mm)	19.8	23.9	23.9
Days with >0.2mm	14	29	25
Days with >2mm	8	23	20
Days with >20mm	0	2	2
Annual rain so far	797	1039	1199

Temperature shown in degrees Celsius

Autumn was the third warmest on record for the UK, beaten only by the 2011 and 2006 figures in a series which goes back to 1884. In Drymen, October was 1.3° over our usual whilst November was particularly tropical being 2.2° up. Armistice Day topped the month locally at 16.5°. Scotland hit its all-time high for that day in Lossiemouth with 19.1° whilst Kensington Palace reached 17.4°. There was a solitary air frost during the season on 3rd November.

Also on the 3rd (going off at a tangent!) a rare geographical phenomenon occurred. 'True north,' 'magnetic north' and 'grid north' all aligned for the first time over the UK and will continue thus for three and a half years. 'True north' is the direction along the surface of the Earth that ends at the North Pole, while 'magnetic north' points to where the planets' magnetic field goes downwards. 'Grid north' is the direction of the grid lines on maps that usually point towards or near the North Pole. *(And so ends many happy(?) hours working out compass readings and less happy hours wandering around in the mist when you got it wrong! Ed.)*

With higher temperatures over the last two months came 'The Rains'. The Drymen total of 402mm for the pair was the highest recorded in the 70-year Glasgow dataset - 34% more than average. Next was 1998 when 397mm fell and 1984 with 393mm. Nice weather for ducks.



LB

## Village Hall update

Thanks to National Lottery and Stirling Council funding, we're delighted to welcome our new Hall Coordinator, Rowan Higgins, who is based in the new office at the top of the stairs (open 11am to 1pm, Monday to Friday). She handles the day to day running of the hall, taking bookings and general enquiries and will also spend 4 hours a day working with hall users. E-mail her on [halloffice@drymen.org](mailto:halloffice@drymen.org) or drop in to see her if you have a query.

A warm welcome also to our 'Open Doors' Project Session Coordinator, Grace Brownlie, who is working with Rowan to develop sessions (currently Monday 1200-1500, Tuesday 1400-1700 and Friday 1000-1700, but, if there is sufficient interest we will expand these) when the hall is open to the community as a warm, welcoming space for anyone to pop in, out of the cold, for a cup of tea and biscuit, or use our Wi-Fi, or take part in some of the various activities that are up and running/being planned e.g. Citizen's Advice Service visiting every other Monday between 1200 and 1400, Singing Circle every other Tuesday 1400

to 15.00, Storytime every other Friday at 1400 - watch out for future Bridge/Card lessons, Craft sessions and even cookery events. 'Open doors' has only been possible thanks to Stirling Council, Magic Little Grants and The Robertson Trust funding. If you have any queries/ ideas please drop Grace an email on [drymenvh.opendoors@yahoo.com](mailto:drymenvh.opendoors@yahoo.com)

We are also looking at holding a regular Repair Café as part of the Open Doors Project. So, if you have the expertise to repair things (sewing/ dressmaking, qualified electrician, software or hardware expertise, gardening, carpentry etc) and

are willing to donate some time to help your community, please

contact Grace at [drymenvh.opendoors@yahoo.com](mailto:drymenvh.opendoors@yahoo.com) - (even occasional help would be much appreciated). Grace herself can fix jewellery - mend broken chains, replace missing clasps etc. **Please let us know if you think this would be a valuable enterprise for the community.**



Thanks to a grant from NHS Forth Valley Community Fund we will be able to buy a laptop for anyone to use at the Open Doors Sessions.

Details of all the Hall events are online on our Facebook page (DrymenVillageHall) and on our noticeboard outside the Hall.

# BITS AND PIECES

## A successful Christmas Sale for the Art Club

Over 100 framed and 40 unframed works of art by members of Drymen Art Club were on show at the Winnock Hotel, Drymen on Saturday, November 26th.

Sales were excellent with a number of visitors using the opportunity to buy paintings for Christmas.

We have recruited new members since the Autumn classes started and our resident tutor, Iain McAulay is a great success. We welcome anybody with an interest in drawing and painting and Iain's multi-media skills offer guidance and encouragement. Classes are held in Drymen Village Hall on Wednesday from 1p.m. to 4p.m. so come along and have a look at what we are doing.

Members will now be working hard to produce new work for their annual three-day sale in April 2023 – watch for details in the March 'Reporter'.



Anne Tomlinson

## Library Reopens After Flood Repairs

Library users are delighted to have the Library reopen for 'business as usual' after a burst water pipe caused damage to the building, books and computers and the Library decanted to the Winnock Hotel in April while water damaged carpets, ceilings and light fittings were replaced

Community Planning and Regeneration Convener, Cllr Gerry McGarvey said: "Thanks to the work that has been put in over the past few months, Drymen Library is now looking as good as new and this much loved local facility is now able to fully serve the local village again.

"Thanks and appreciation must be paid to the Library team for their work to provide a temporary library while restoration work was ongoing, and of course to the Winnock Hotel for hosting the service during this period of disruption."

Drymen Library's Book Group, Coffee Club, Junior Craft Club, IT & Me and Bookbug have all resumed as normal. Information on school visits will be available in due course. Charity Christmas cards are now on sale and there are lots of things planned for the festive period. For further information on the groups and upcoming programme of events at Drymen Library, call 01360 660 751 or email [drymenlibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:drymenlibrary@stirling.gov.uk).

## Senior Citizens' Association programme

**Here we are in the run-up to the Festive Season again - my but it's come around fast!**

We're delighted to be welcoming back, (for the first time since the pandemic), the choir from Drymen Primary School who are going to entertain us after our members' Christmas Lunch in the Winnock Hotel on 13th December. Professional musicians Gregor Lowrey and Kirsten Easedale are bringing us their wonderful music and song to get 2023 off to a great start at our January meeting on Tuesday 17th in the Village Hall at 2pm. In February we have our High Tea for members in the Winnock Hotel with music afterwards and on Tuesday 21st March, in the Village Hall at 2pm, we welcome, for the first time, Charlie Kirkpatrick with his music and a few humorous stories.

Our club meets once a month from September through to April with an outing in May. It's a chance for those over 60 to meet up, have a bit of entertainment and then a wee cuppa with some home baking. Why not come along in January to see what we get up to - you've nothing to lose and who knows, you might enjoy it!

In the meantime, I wish you all the compliments of the upcoming festive season and a happy and healthy 2023 when it comes. For some though it is a particularly challenging time of year, so if a wee chat would help at all please give me a ring.

**Linda (More) 01360 660706**

# Drymen Church news

## Start-up Stirling Food Bank

Collections were held in the Church on 4th and 11th December and the next collections will be on the 5th and 12th of March. All non-perishable goods are welcome as is cash to buy fresh produce. The need for this support is as great as ever and your contributions are much appreciated.

## Good Companions Lunches

We have introduced a new monthly get-together for the over sixties this winter. The next lunches will be held in the church annex on Monday 9th January and 13th February, from 12 noon to 2pm. No charge is made for these tasty lunches, but a cash donation would be appreciated.

The church has agreed to be a partner with the Village Hall in a Doors Open scheme offering a warm, welcoming place with refreshments for anyone finding things tough over the winter. See posters for more information.

## Sunday services

You are guaranteed a welcome to Drymen Church on Sunday mornings at 11.30. If you come earlier you can have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat in the annex before the service from 10.45am. Our locum Minister is the Rev Alex Smeed, and his sermons are delivering food for thought in these troubled times. Teenagers and children meet in their own age groups and there is crèche provision for the younger ones.

## 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 the team through the Church website at <https://drymenchurch.org>.

Alison Brown

## Good news for beer lovers

'Drymen Beer Shop' opened its doors for the first time on the 1st of December in the care of Alex Hay, who grew up near Balmaha (his father, the late Rev. John Hay, was Drymen and Buchanan minister) and Morag Lewis who is originally from Kippen. Both have had long careers in the hospitality industry - Alex starting in the Pottery and Winnock in the 90s before the family moved away when his father retired and he recently spent 3 years as part of the team at The Beerhive, an award-winning bottle shop in Cannonmills, Edinburgh where he developed a love of craft beer.

With fond memories of living in this area, when Alex and his family moved back to Stirlingshire in 2017, he started looking for suitable premises to start a bottle shop of his own. On a recent day trip to Balmaha, he saw that 15a Main Street was up for rent, and so began the inception of the Drymen Beer Shop.

Alex says 'We will showcase excellent local beers as well as those from further afield, alongside a small selection of artisan spirits and some of our favourite snacks. Whether you're an experienced Beer lover or are just interested in trying something new, we've got you covered. Our opening times during December will be 11am-8pm Monday to Saturday, 12pm-8pm Sunday'.

Alex and Morag



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# Lodge Loch Lomond No. 1483

**It is good to be (almost) back to normal.** The Lodge has met on the first Thursdays of the last 4 months and we currently have two candidates joining the Lodge. Our friends from Lodge Blairhoyle in Thornhill visited us on the 1st of December to confer the fellowcraft on the two brothers and on the 2nd of February 2023, Lodge Leven St John No. 170 will be coming along to confer the Master Mason degree on them.

The Lodge will be making our usual charitable donations this Christmas, locally, to Drymen and Gartocharn Senior Citizens and to Strathcarron Hospice and Erskine Hospital. On the 24th of November in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre with 700 guests present, The Grand Master Mason accompanied The Lord Lyon of Scotland to present a cheque for £1,125 million to Prostate Scotland. This money was raised by Scottish Freemasons in many ways, such as, sponsored zip slides, walking over hot coals, marathon walks and many other ingenious ways - a tremendous achievement by the often maligned Freemasons of Scotland. Also on that occasion I had the honour of being installed into the highest elective office in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, an honour, not just for myself but for Lodge Loch Lomond and the Province of Stirlingshire. Incidentally, the Lodges in the Province have, during the summer, donated almost £8,000 to many and varied charities across Stirlingshire - well done all.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of Lodge Loch Lomond, to wish all your readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If anyone would like information about Freemasonry or would like to join the Lodge or wish to affiliate if you are a member of another Lodge, contact myself or any Lodge member. John McKenzie, 07737859442, [jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk)

## Grow a tree from seed!

**Thank you to everyone who helped with the recent clean-up of the plot in the Square – see photo of our youngest volunteer on the day.**

Some of us are taking part in a tree seed growing project with an organisation in Stirling called Treelink – they will supply tree seed in March, we sow them and grow them on for a year before they are given over to a nursery to be planted in the Stirling area. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Frances on 660273.



## Useful Info

### Library

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

Not running currently

### 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**

## Drymen Defibrillator

**Last month our defibrillator was out of action, the box alarm had been regularly going off and the door was broken.**

A huge thanks to Drymen Support Group for ensuring the defibrillator was back up and running quickly, to David Mackie at Drymen Bakery for purchasing a magnificent new upgraded defibrillator box for the village and to Donald Macleod for fitting it.

**Louise McFarlane**

# Development Trust plans

**We have had a great response for the bus shelter project but are disappointed to report that the light sensor has been vandalised, resulting in the light not switching off when no one is there.** Please be on the lookout and report any vandalism to Police Scotland.

## Drymen Place Plan

During November, we hosted an open day and were pleased many people visited to ask questions, provide views, and make positive suggestions. During the day, we were seeking input for the new 10-year Drymen Place Plan, and in the evening, we hosted an open meeting on the forthcoming Road Safety Pilot.

The Drymen Place Plan, to be published early next year, will detail the priorities for the village over the next decade. Consultation for this has come through the recent 20-Minute Neighbourhood Study and Active Travel Plan and additional feedback from events such as the open day. If you didn't attend you can still have your say by completing a survey at [drymen.org](http://drymen.org), paper copies are available at Drymen Bakery and Drymen Library.

## Road Safety Pilot

DCDT has been awarded £30,000 for a Road Safety Pilot following a funding application to the Road Safety Trust. We applied following concerns by residents about the excessive speed of some vehicles in the village and the lack of a safe crossing in the village centre.

The pilot will see the main road temporarily narrowed at its widest point adjacent to the Village Square area. All vehicles will still be able to get through safely but will have to decrease speed. A 20-mph restriction will be introduced around the centre of the village, with a pedestrian crossing added.

Careful monitoring during the trial will determine whether changes in traffic speed make the village safer and recommend if changes should be made permanent.

We were pleased so many people attended the open meeting last month and asked questions and raised any concerns. The

project is being overseen by specialist consultants TP&E, who answered many questions at the meeting, and there will be further consultation during and after the trial. DCDT would only be able to apply for funding to make any changes permanent if there is strong support in the village to do so.

During the open day and in completed surveys, numerous residents raised concerns that traffic speed is a major issue along Stirling Road and Balmaha Road. As

a result of these representations, we have written to Stirling Council to urge them to reduce the speed limit across the village to 20 MPH, as has been done in other villages.

## Christmas

Some Christmas thank you's from DCDT, first to Duff Christmas Tree Farm for the amazing tree in the Square, to Fraser C Robb and James D. Bilsland for their help getting it ready. For Drymen Bakery for providing mince pies and hot chocolate, and to The Clachan for mulled wine at the light switch-on. Finally to all the participating homes and businesses that have made such a great effort for Drymen Advent Windows..

Thanks to everyone who supported DCDT through 2022, especially its members. If you would like to find out more about DCDT, join us, and volunteer, please email [hello@drymen.org](mailto:hello@drymen.org)



## History Society 2023

**26th January** - John Aitken will give an illustrated talk on the Tall Ship 'Glenlee'- last remaining three-masted sailing vessel still afloat in the UK. She was built in 1896 and launched from the Bay Yard in Port Glasgow for Archibald Sterling & Co, After a varied career as a merchant ship and as a training ship for the Royal Spanish Navy, she has been restored by the Tall Ship Glenlee Trust and is now berthed at the Riverside Museum in Glasgow. *(The ship itself is well worth a visit. Ed)*

**23 February** - Ruth Johnston will talk about the Glasgow Necropolis and the famous people buried there, including William Miller, author of 'Wee Willie Winkie'. This talk will be delivered via Zoom. and will be shown in the Village Hall. Alternatively, members will be able to view the talk at home via Zoom.

**23 March** - Dr Irene O'Brien of Glasgow City Archives on the 'Scottish poor law'.

**27 April** - Members Night and AGM. Short contributions from members of the Society, preceded by Cheese and Wine at 7 pm.

All meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Membership of the Society costs £10 per annum, including free entrance to all lectures. Visitors are welcome at £3 per lecture.

# PTA fundraising

Since the start of the school year we have organised several fun activities to raise money for school trips, transport costs and new outdoor clothing.

In October, for the first time in a few years, the children had their first Halloween Disco, with food and prizes donated by Spar, the Aizle, France Farm and Tesco & Waitrose, Milngavie.

The 'Trim Trail' was installed last week and is already very well used by the children.

Running up to Christmas, we have already raised money with a raffle for pantomime tickets and a Christmas tree, with thanks to Mugdock Country Park and Eden Mill. The pupils also created lovely Christmas cards and we had lots of fun with the Children's 'Christmas Crafting' hosted by Sally & Tessa and 'Wreath Making' for adults, organised by Sally. The last fundraising activity scheduled before the holidays will be our attendance at the Drymen Country Christmas Market on the 17th of December, where the PTA will be selling lovely home baking.



The PTA would like to thank everyone who donated, participated, and supported us this year. We are looking forward to having many more FUNdraisers in 2023 to support Drymen Primary School.

Debbie Gibb

## Drymen W.I.

The Institute continues to meet in the Winnock Hotel on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00pm.

Our first meeting had us gathering in Helensburgh to paint pottery - a great success all round and totally relaxing. Then in September we had a most interesting talk about Glasgow tenements, followed, in October, by Elspeth Bennie from Balfron talking about her decorative metal work.

Now we are looking forward to our Christmas dinner together where we make a donation to the Beatson Charity.

In the new year we have a talk "Inspired by Nature" by Carol Ormand from Strathendrick Stitchers.

In March we are travelling to Singapore, New Zealand and Borneo in the company of Kevin and Linda Clarke from Stirling, and we finish our year with a talk on 'The Hill House', as it is today, in April then our AGM in May.

Do come and join us.

# Drymen

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## Rescue teams' joint exercise

Lomond MRT recently hosted our neighbour team, Ochils MRT, in a joint exercise at our base in Drymen. The last time the teams trained together was pre-pandemic so it was great to meet up with old colleagues and make new ones.

We were also pleased to be joined by Coastguard helicopter 199 from Prestwick and the morning session consisted of helicopter familiarisation drills followed by practice in winching and hi-lining techniques.

Following lunch, the teams moved on to practice technical rigging whilst a small group explored advanced medical techniques under the guidance of an experienced practitioner from Scottish Ambulance's SORT group.

The conditions also allowed for training with a drone, developing flying skills as well as utilising both the visual and infra red cameras to aid searching difficult to access areas.

Thanks go to all those who played a role in organising the day's activities, especially the Lomond MRT Training officers.

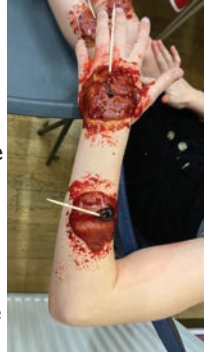


We also very much appreciate the support of local landowners who enabled our training with the Coastguard Helicopter.

**David Dodson, LMRT  
Team Leader**

## Youth café is thriving

We are delighted that The Drymen Youth Café returned to The Village Hall in September with around 30 young people taking part in a wide range of experiences. This session we have been fortunate to have had a number of visitors leading activities such as Mask making and Special effects makeup (see photo), Science experiments and a Glow stick disco. We were also able to run a couple of trips to Balfron Swimming Pool for The Inflatable and to Clydebank Town Hall to see Elf, The Musical. Of course, the usual activities such as table tennis, pool and the Xbox are also available for anyone who wants a quieter evening to catch up with friends.



Due to some funding from Stirling Council Community Grants, we are once again in the position of being able to offer a gift to our elderly local residents and to those who have supported us in various ways over the years. We look forward to delivering these in the run up to Christmas.

The Café will now return in January for more fun and games including a Burns Supper and a Movie night to name just a few. We look forward to welcoming members old and new back for another successful and fun packed year.

**Jill Owens**



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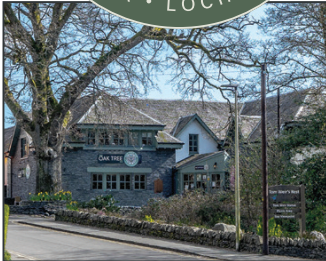
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## Twenty days, twenty marathons (524 miles) - all for charity!

“I’ve done it!!!” That’s what James said to us as he crossed the line at the London marathon, successfully completing his last challenge of 20 marathons in 20 consecutive days. What a roller coaster it was, with many highs and many lows and blisters the size of toes!

It was lovely to see the support as he left Drymen Square on Tuesday 13th September on his first marathon to Glasgow. Unfortunately, early on in the challenge, a previous problem reared its head, forcing him to walk/limp around Edinburgh on day 3. But he never gave up. With support from Mum, Dad and sister Hannah, regular physio and lots of extra stretching, he was able to run again. The route took us through all the counties down to London visiting some beautiful towns and cities, such as York and Stamford in Lincolnshire.

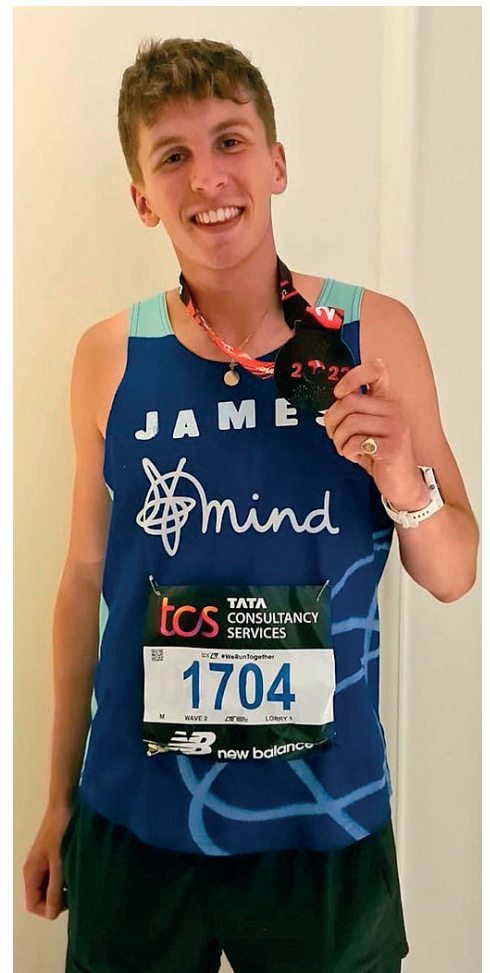
It was an early start the day of the London marathon, with packed trains getting to the start and an amazing

atmosphere. We managed to see him at 13 and 25 miles, and he was flying past! Without the pressure of having to run the next day, he was able to push himself and finished in an amazing time of 3 hours 38 mins! After a few celebratory drinks, as we were walking back to the hotel, we stopped at mile 25 to cheer on those who were still finishing 8 hours later with true grit and determination. Just like James had shown throughout the previous 20 days.

Including Gift Aid, this year, James has managed to raise over £14,500 bringing a total of over £25,000 for mental health charities over the last two years. A special thanks must go to the Gartness Beer Festival for their very generous donation this year.

### The Semple Family

Photo shows James with his London Marathon medal



# ‘Changing Lives Malawi’ fundraising

**The Mackay family, together with other supporters of Changing Lives Malawi, have continued to add kilometres to their tally.** They are aiming to walk/cycle/run/hop 13,144 kms which is the distance the donations the charity collects travels from Balfron to Northern Malawi. The team are doing this to raise awareness of the charity and to raise money for a new secondary school. The team have now clocked up 8,694.565kms - 66.15% of the way. We are “racing” a container that is currently in its way – who will win? The amazing news is that Phase 1 of The Bright Futures Secondary School opened for pupils on Monday 7th November. It means that the local pupils no longer must leave their families and board during term time. The class sizes are smaller than they would be at other schools which hopefully will improve their education

opportunities. Currently there are 68 pupils (S1 to S3), but the aim is to grow the school by adding 2 extra class rooms each year to increase the role to 2 classes of 40 per year group. Secondary education must be paid for personally in Malawi but in this rural part of the country there is little spare money for this. The school is funded by a mixture of

donations and direct sponsoring of children and will also give opportunities to the wider community through the provision of adult literacy and numeracy classes. To find out more about the variety of projects being supported there or, to make a donation, please go to the charity’s website [www.changinglivesmalawi.com](http://www.changinglivesmalawi.com)



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# Guiding outdoors – it's been a mixed bag!

**All Guiding sections have been meeting outdoors up to the October school holidays and let's just say that the saying is true – there is no such thing as bad weather, just a bad choice of clothing!** Rainbows and Brownies in particular, enjoy donning waterproofs and wellies to see just how high they can make the splash go; some leaders are just not quick enough to be able to escape, it seems. Being outdoors, in the fresh air is a fundamental part of Guiding and is important not only to run off some of that energy but also to lift moods and trigger questions about nature, the environment and ironically architecture design.

**The Brownies** worked on an outdoor theme and creating fire is part of that. They start small by learning how to strike a match, then how to hold the flame long enough to light a candle. It is easy to forget that modern life means that many of our really, young people are totally unused to open flames, many of them have only been under the light of an electric bulb and very few have actual indoor fires or even patio/garden fire pits. Many boxes of matches were sacrificed in the making of this lesson.

**The Rangers** had a much harder challenge: they had to use a cardboard box to make an oven to cook on an open fire! Yes, cardboard on open flames! However, as you can see from the

photos, it is possible with the correct experimentation, foil and height above the flames. Pizza was successfully baked and



eaten... not all of it was edible, but lessons were learnt for refining the oven for next time. (*Making bread on a stick and cooking eggs in a paper bag on an open fire – happy, but hungry, Scouting days! Ed.*)

The Rangers also had to improvise tent repairs of all different kinds of broken parts and then, when all else fails, practice sleeping in an emergency bivouac.

**The Guides** had a foray into reclaiming cardboard and produced this most impressive looking robot. Guiding indoors has its own challenges but the girls enjoy being back in a warm environment now the nights are darker and they have been able to experiment with making butter the old-



fashioned way. This month will also see the girls going to explore the world in the dark, from looking up to see the stars, to closing their eyes to listen for sounds at night, but it's nice to come back into the warm once that is done.

The Rainbow unit is still active, and we look forward to welcoming some more new members soon. Rainbows can join the unit from P1 even if they are 4yrs old, we have a small group who sometimes work with the younger Brownies when they want to play games that need more people.

Drymen Guiding would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Drymen Church for enabling us to use the hall and we would also like to express our gratitude to Fraser Robb for organising our Wreath for Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Community Council - without support from the community, much of our guiding would be restricted.

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@googlegmail.com](mailto:beccaemm@googlegmail.com).

**Karen Merrick,  
1st Endrick Ranger Leader**



## Buchanan Arms Bowling Club

**The wet winter is upon us, and we yearn for the spring sunshine.** The Club season ended on the 18th of September, when six triples played for the Campbell Kirk Cup, the winners being John McKenzie, Nan Burgoyne and Gillian Munro. The weather was kind to us and an enjoyable day concluded with tea and the usual array of goodies and the playing of the spider, the traditional manner of closing the Green. We had a bit of a scare at the end of the competition when one of our members took ill and we are very grateful to David Burgoyne and the young assistant from the Leisure Club who looked after him until the ambulance arrived – I'm glad to say he is recovering well. Four of our members have moved from Drymen, Bobby Rose and Jean Thom have emigrated to the sunnier climes of Filey in Yorkshire and we wish them well for the future, while David and Nan Burgoyne

have moved to Bearsden, but intend to remain members of the Club.

We have not held an A.G.M. this year but a date will be arranged in the new year. Grateful thanks to Paul Rybarczyk who made an excellent job of refurbishing the metal framed table and seats. Fintry Indoor has been booked for an outing on the 19th of February 2023 and of course, we look forward to working with the new owners of the hotel when we return. If anyone is thinking of joining the club for next season, make a start by coming along to our outing to Fintry Indoor. I also take this opportunity to wish all Club members and your readers, festive greetings and an enjoyable New Year. John McKenzie, tel. 07737859442, [jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jockmckenzie@hotmail.co.uk)

# It's been a busy school term

## London Mini Marathon

Our Sports Leaders in P6/7 organised a fantastic 2.6km run for P1-7. They planned the route and marshalled the run successfully. Everyone who took part received a certificate and pin badge.



with parents and carers having the opportunity to visit children's classes to hear about their learning targets and to talk to the children about their work.

## Grounds Day

Thank you to all the helpers during Grounds Day to help organise and maintain the grounds.

## Soundstart

This year, P5 are taking part in the Soundstart programme. Every pupil has the opportunity to learn an instrument to form our very own orchestra with a performance at the end of the year.

## Young Voices Event

Well done to Eilidh, Baillie and Anna who spoke very confidently at the Stirling Voices event about outdoor learning and health and wellbeing at Drymen Primary.

Patrick Robertson, Head Teacher

## Agnes Retirement

Our dear Agnes, catering assistant at Drymen, has retired after almost 30 years working in schools and nurseries. We had a special send-off assembly and tea party to wish her a happy retirement. Thank you, Agnes, for everything.

## Science Learning Contexts.

This term, P1-7 have been learning about the Sustainable Development Goals. There has been lots of rich learning including debates, making models, class trip to a wind farm and writing instructions for practical experiments.

## Family Learning

Our family learning programme continued



1st above left, 2nd below, 3rd above right



## Photography Competition

Inspired by the wildlife photography exhibition in London, children could take part in our first Drymen Wildlife Photography exhibition. We were blown away by the creativity. Well done to Annie, Daisy and Tiger for the top three photos. (shown above)



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