# DRYMEN REPORTER

June 2023 Issue No. 94

Deadline for next issue 15 August

Editor - John Cameron

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



Drymen School Show, page 13

# The bridge is open!

Catterburn Bridge reopened - to great rejoicing - and we look forward to it fully opening once cladding is completed. Personally, I'm just pleased not to be testing my heart trying to cross Aberfoyle Road at Balfron Station driving to and from Killearn!

Much as I enjoy working on the 'Reporter' it's almost unheard of for me to come inside to type this rather than sit outside in the sun, but here I am trying hard to keep the heat <u>out!</u> A lot of things in the garden are suffering and really need attention, but, since this weather pattern seems likely to be the norm, I'm probably going to follow the advice of an old friend many years ago 'Ach, if it dees it dees. Ye can aye get another!'

Congratulations to the Show committee for another highly successful show in glorious sunshine. Judging by the vehicles still in the field on Sunday I guess some perhaps enjoyed it a little too much!

The introduction of the 20mph limit has long been necessary, however, how to enforce it is always the problem. At present (15th June), observing traffic passing Ardmore Gardens, a very small number are doing less than 30mph and many much more. So, it will be interesting to see how the Trust plans for improving road safety work out and how residents view them.

Stay safe and enjoy this issue.

John Cameron, Editor



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# Penny Young exercising her donkeys

A lovely sight on Drymen Square last month.

# A good start to a new season of bowls

Buchanan Arms Bowling Club opened for the new season in April and the weather was kind to us as Ellen Brown, a longstanding member, rolled the silver jack, delivered the first two bowls of the season and declared the green open for season 2023. Members and guests enjoyed a cordial afternoon of friendship playing 10 ends of bowls, followed by tea, sandwiches and cakes in the Hotel - our thanks go to the Hotel for allowing us the use of their premises. I would also thank our members for supplying the food and setting up for the afternoon tea.

The Bowling Green is an amenity for the village and surrounding area and members are important to keep the Club going. We play every Monday evening, starting between 6:45 and 7:00 o'clock and, if anyone would like to join us, just come along on a Monday night - we have bowls to help you get started. It is a most enjoyable and friendly game, so come along and give it a try.

If you are interested in joining the Club, contact myself, John McKenzie on 07737859442 or email mckenzie.john1943@gmail.com or speak to any member.

### Another successful Drymen Show

Thank you to everyone who came along on Saturday May 27th to support the 173rd Drymen Show.

We hope you enjoyed the many exhibits and attractions throughout the day, from the fantastic display of livestock through to the amazing work from our local primary and nursery schools.

The committee aim to offer visitors from the local community and wider afield a day out for all the family with plenty to see and do associated to agriculture and farming as well as numerous other ways to keep everyone entertained. We were pleased to host and welcome 30 students from the State Of Iowa on a trip to Scotland to learn more about Native Breeds, as well as a lovely couple from France who stayed for the week in their campervan .

This was never more demonstrated than by our main ring attraction, which helped us understand how to train a sheep dog,



followed by the very funny lamb grand national, but could also be seen in our Pet Tent. This is run in association with RHET (The Royal Highland Education Trust), and you could learn more about aspects of farming as well as see some amazing farmyard animals. It also hosts our Learning Zone, where you could learn more about those that work in farming or our local community and who breed and own livestock. This year we



saw talks from the Trossachs Search and Rescue Team and the RSPB (Royal Society Of the Protection Of Birds) and had the opportunity to learn more about Rabbits and Mini Shetland Ponies and how animals ,in general, bring us joy.



The Society also aims to give back by working where possible with local groups, charities and associations such as the Drymen Scout Group, Strathendrick Rugby Club, Killearn PTA, the Loch Lomond Ukulele Band, SSS and Loch Lomond Young Farmers and The Vintage Fire Engine Club. We also give tickets to Robin House to help cover the cost for



any families who would like to visit. If you are part of a local group, charity, association and think there are ways we could support each other then please do get in touch with one of the committee or by emailing drymenshow@outlook.com.

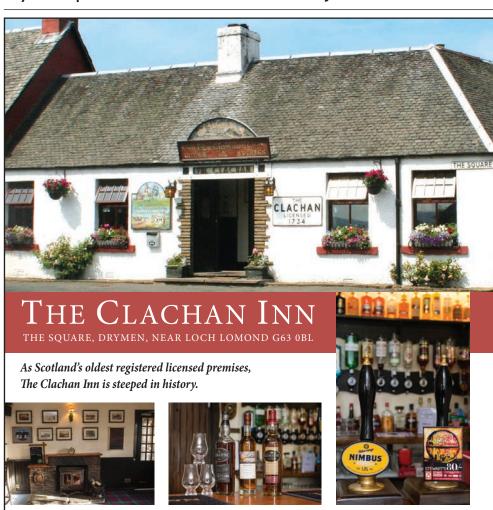


Finally, on behalf of all the committee we would like to thank once again our exhibitors, sponsors, trade and craft stands and all the numerous volunteers. Without you the show just wouldn't happen and the time and effort you give to make it happen is very much appreciated.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Saturday May 25th, 2024.







# Thanks to all who helped on the Drymen litter pick





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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

#### The Team

John Cameron - Editor Claire Pocock - Compositor Frances Lander Jakki Sendall

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

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

#### **Printing**

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#### **Next issue Sept**

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

15th August

## Drymen in Bloom

The 24 Drymen in Bloom volunteers have once again planted up their tubs and planters and will continue to give of their time to care for these throughout the summer, bringing colour to the village and enjoyment for residents and visitors. Every year visitors tell us how much they admire the display so 'well done' everyone involved – including family members who act as willing(?) water carriers when required!

Stirling Council also deserve a mention for their considerate mowing of the area planted with daffodils in Ardmore Gardens. Thanks to their enlightened approach over the last few years, not only do we have a great Daffodil display, but we also have an area of wild flowers (mainly Cuckoo Flower, Veronica and Buttercup) which provided food for early Orange Tip, Peacock, and Red Admiral butterflies and continues to do so. Well done SDC.

Hopefully the seeds sown in the small plot on Stirling Road (see photo) will produce a good display.





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### Meteorology Matters

Drymen 2023	March	April	Мау
Temp highest max	9.8	13.3	23.8
Temp lowest max	5.0	7.7	13.0
Lowest min	-7.5	-3.4	2.4
Highest min	8.4	9.1	11.9
Mean maximum	9.8	13.3	17.3
Mean minimum	1.8	3.9	7.7
Mean temp	5.3	8.4	12.1
No. days <0	11	3	0
Monthly rain (mm)	148	58	31
Most in 24hrs (mm	30.4	20.9	12.9
Days with >0.2mm	23	16	10
Days with >2mm	15	8	4
Days with >20mm	I	I	0
Annual rain so far	411	469	500

Temperature shown in degress Celsius

Spring could be categorised as an 'improving situation'. March was 0.7C cooler than the long-term Glasgow average and considerably wetter with 148mm rain i.e. 50% more than expected. April was humdrum except for a dryish spell in the middle of the month which did nothing to dampen an extensive hill fire on the north side of the Queen's View — the damage becoming apparent to all once the drawbridge was lowered at Croftamie. May was pleasantly warm and very dry.

The Met Office is suggesting a warm summer and there have also been many mentions in the news of 'El Nino,' a weather pattern that can occur in the Pacific Ocean every few years and is predicted to begin later this year. As the world appears to be heating, scientist are anxious about re-entering the 'El Niño' phase as it is the warmer part of a natural oscillation driven by ocean temperatures and winds in the Pacific. The last three years have seen an unusual run of the colder counterpart, 'La Nina.' Although Pacific surface temperatures can change by only a couple of degrees, it is enough to affect world weather patterns and the potential for extreme events.

This year is already forecast to be hotter than 2022, which global datasets rank as the fifth or sixth hottest year on record. But El Niño occurs during the northern hemisphere winter and its heating effect takes months to be felt, meaning 2024 is much more likely to set a new global temperature record.

LB

#### Women's Institute - 95 years young!

Our meetings in the Spring have been very well attended with interesting speakers, and we all enjoyed getting together with friends.

In March we hosted 12 teams from our Federation i.e. Stirling, Clackmannan, and West Perthshire for the annual quiz - we were hosts as we had won the quiz in 2022. This was a great night and the hard work of compiling the quiz certainly paid off. All the ladies of Drymen Institute turned out and worked so hard, but, on the plus side, it was a great social occasion.

In May, we were joined by Elizabeth Farr, Chair of our Federation when we went to 'The Lodge on the Loch' for afternoon tea to celebrate our 95th Anniversary. The weather was perfect, the tea delicious and all enjoyed the occasion.

Now we are looking forward to our next session, beginning in September,

If you would like to join us for interesting talks, watching a demonstration, or learning a new skill, please come and join us at 2.00pm on the second Thursday of the month in the Winnock Hotel.





### **BITS AND PIECES**

### Art Club exhibition hits new records

The 2023 Exhibition, in April, saw record attendances and sales, and several visitors to the exhibition expressed an interest in joining the club when meetings recommence in September.

Since appointing Iain McAulay as club tutor, new members have joined the club and the standard of work produced reflects the success of this move.

The Wendy Shuker Prize, awarded to the artist whose painting was adjudged, by visitors, to be the best in show, was won this year by Avril McWilliam, with her painting 'Summertime'.

Aileen Semple's artwork, 'Wet Leaf' was donated as a raffle prize and £320 was raised for CHAS during the Exhibition and Sale.



Avril receiving the Wendy Shuker trophy from Club President, Tom Gilchrist.

#### **History Society news**

At Members night on 27 April we heard interesting talks from Walter Hemfrey on Royal Mail from Glasgow to Fort William in Victorian times, from John Cameron on antique implements and their use, and from Peter Smith on the archaeology of the former Black Bull Hotel in Killearn. At the AGM the following Committee was elected: Andrew Richardson, Chairman; Margaret Harrison, Secretary; Peter Smith, Treasurer; John Carruthers, Past Chairman; John Cameron, Anne Gilchrist, and Carole Richardson. The Vice Chairman post is vacant.

We have an interesting programme arranged for 2023-24 and the first meeting will be on Thursday 28 September 2023 at 7.30 pm. Dr John Riddell will talk about Fairlie's secret war, when the Royal Navy Anti-submarine Experimental Establishment relocated to Fairlie during WW II and developed Sonar (originally called Asdic) to deal with the submarine threat to British shipping. Further talks will be on - film making in the Trossachs, the history of Glasgow Police, Robert Burns, Duntreath Castle and Ben Lomond.

The latest issue of Scottish local history magazine can be read in Drymen Library and has articles on Landscapes and the Battle of Stirling Bridge; Burntisland Vitriol Co. and the 1884 typhoid outbreak in Glasgow.

### Senior Citizens' Association

Hope you're all having a lovely summer and enjoying the glorious weather. I've been enjoying it so much I haven't yet got our syllabus pulled together but we've got a few new entertainers lined up to come along. I look forward to seeing current and hopefully some new members when we restart on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 2pm in Drymen Village Hall.

If you're 60 or over we would love to see you - just bring a mug for a cuppa; the committee provides the sandwiches & cakes. Membership is £10 for the full year or £4 per meeting if you want to come as a visitor. Hope to see you there!

Linda (More) Secretary

# What's going on in the Village Hall

Although some of our regular groups are winding down for the summer, there is still lots going on at the Village Hall. As always, our Open Doors sessions are for anyone who would like to pop in for a cuppa and a chat, however, keep an eye out for our flyer coming through your letterbox as we have lots of free activities too!

Tortilla Tuesday proved to be very popular – June's foodie session will be on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Come along between 2pm-5pm for some tasty food and great company.

On Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June we will be doing some arts and crafts for Father's Day. If you would like to make a card for someone special, the hall will be open from 2pm-5pm.

Knit and Natter is continuing on a Friday morning at 10am, alongside Neighbourfood collections. Don't worry if you don't have a crafty project to bring along with you, sometimes there is too much nattering going on anyway!

We also have our Saturday Cinema, showing a family friendly film each week. Join the Village Hall Cinema group on Facebook for more information on showings.

The Gardening Club is on a Tuesday evening at the Community Garden from around 6pm onwards, please drop by if you would like some more information or want to help - we would be so happy to have more people involved!

#### **Upcoming Events**

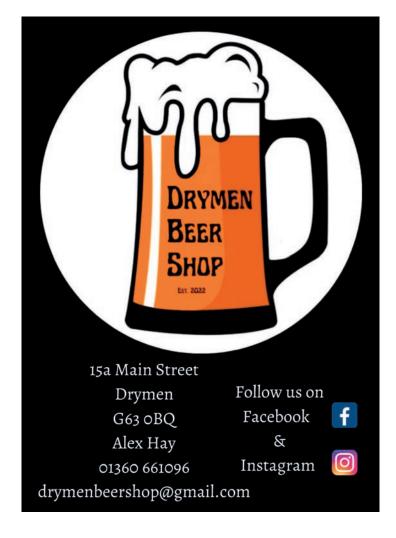
Can you sew? Repair jewellery? Or maybe fixing bikes is your thing...? We are still keen to set up a repair café in the Hall but, due to lack of volunteers, are looking at possibly combining with Fintry. If you think you would be able to help us out, please contact us

at <a href="mailto:hall-to-hal

Another date for the diary is Sunday the 23rd of July for our Family Fun Day at the Community Garden, with gardening workshops to take part in, a picnic and some games! Keep an eye for out for more information on our noticeboards and Facebook page!

If you would like to get involved with the Hall or would like to hear more then please get in touch - contact Rowan, Hall Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:halloffice@drymen.org">halloffice@drymen.org</a> or pop in and see us.

Details of all the Hall events are online on our Facebook page, and our noticeboard outside the Hall. You can see all activities, availability and booking form on the website <a href="https://www.drymen.org">www.drymen.org</a>.



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# What do you want the future of the National Park to look like?

A conversation about the future of the National Park is currently underway, offering everyone with an interest in the Park – including local communities, residents and businesses – an opportunity to help shape the response to issues such as climate change, nature loss and local housing.

In April, a new <u>Draft National Park Partnership Plan</u> was published on the National Park Authority website (<u>www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/future</u>) as a conversation starter.

The National Park Partnership Plan is a five-year plan that guides how all of those with a role to play in looking after the National Park will work together to manage the Park and achieve a shared vision for the area.

The draft five-year plan puts forward a wide range of proposals to prompt discussion, covering key themes such as climate change, green jobs, low emissions travel and affordable housing.

Crucially, the Plan is currently a draft (a copy is available in the Library. Ed.) and the National Park Authority wants to hear about people's experiences, their challenges and their ideas for the future of the National Park, whether that's a family living in a community such as Drymen, a farmer looking to diversify their business or a visitor keen to help protect the special environment in the Park.

You have until Wednesday 19th July to have your say and that can be as little as a single comment about public transport options or more detailed thoughts on how to future-proof communities in the National Park against the impacts of climate change and nature loss.

To take part in the conversation about the future of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, visit <a href="https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/future">www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/future</a>

David Mackie, Drymen Bakery & Deli owner, and Board Member at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority.

### **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 aslo be in Croftamie at the But and Ben car park on Wednesday 3.30pm-4.30pm

#### **RBS**

Monday 1.25-2.40pm Stirling Rd car park Friday 10.00 - 10.30am Croftamie Mill Quad

#### **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

# Correction to Spar article in March edition

If anyone noticed the mistake in the March 'Spar' article, they were too kind to mention it.

The error was that the shop staff photo showed five people but only named four. The lady second from left was not named and the line-up should have read Jean McMillan, **May Adams**, Hazel McIntyre, Aileen McInally (owner) and Marlene Gibb (Brown).

Sorry for this omission - my mistake. Ed.



### 26<sup>th</sup> Drymen Scout Group Summer Report

Before we all start to enjoy the summer let us show you how we have enjoyed our local area with the Cubs and Scouts of Drymen.

Den building has been a great theme for the last few weeks. The Cubs and Scouts built dens over several weeks and it has become a popular activity with our boys and girls. So, if you find a den on your travels in the local area, please enjoy it and improve it but do not dismantle it!!.



Camping and nights away is a fantastic part of Scouting fun and the Scouts have been on a few such nights, including a large camp (called Highland Adventure) north of Dundee at the start of May. We are planning to be away with the Cubs on the shores of Loch Venachar for a weekend in June.





Drymen Show was a chance for the Cubs and Scouts to work in the local community when we were invited to help with the programmes at the show. Hopefully, you managed to enjoy a day in the sunshine at the showground!

As well as camping we have had nights cooking on an open fire, hiking around Balmaha, and cycling in the local area.

We hope to get a trip to Inchcailloch in August as well as a trip to New Lanark and another camp trip.

We welcome all to join as either Cubs (aged 8-11), Scouts (aged 11-14) or leaders (aged 14-100). You are never too old to enjoy the adventure and friendships of scouting.

Gavin Rowley. 07590 370199

gavrowley@hotmail.com



# End of an era at the Youth Café

Our Spring term at the Café has been great fun with events including Games, Café nights, an art evening with The Art Hub (Drymen) and an outing to Flip Out in Rutherglen where the young people were able to enjoy trampolining, laser tag, dodgems, go karting and the inflatable.

We held our AGM in March, and it was great to reflect on the activities that we have been able to offer to our young people over the past year. Stepping down from our Committee at the AGM was Rosie Allan. Rosie was on the first Committee when the Youth Café started in 2006, in partnership with Drymen Church, so we are very grateful for

her many years of dedicated service to the young people in our villages. Rosie loved joining in with the Friday night activities alongside the young people and was often found in the kitchen at the end of the evening making her speciality Hot Chocolate. We are sorry to see Rosie leave but wish her well and thank her for her contribution to the Café.

We received a kind donation from the Croftamie Coffee Club, which meets weekly in the library, that we used to fund our end of term BBQ. This was a fantastic games night in the Football pitch led by Stuart from Youth Scotland. Sadly, we said farewell to our Chairperson, Struan Robb. We are grateful to Struan for his many years on the Committee and for his support at the Friday Café nights.

We are delighted to be able to provide somewhere for the local teenagers to meet their friends on a Friday evening. If you would like to know more about the Café and perhaps offer some support as a volunteer or in providing an activity, then please get in touch at <a href="mailto:drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com">drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com</a>

### Lodge Loch Lomond No. 1483

On the 1st of April I was installed once again as the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Loch Lomond at a ceremony in the Millennium Hall, Gartocharn with around 100 brethren in attendance, including a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

We are now in the welcome summer recess and meetings will restart on the first Thursday of September with the annual visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, intimation of which will be in the Drymen news section of the Stirling Observer. At that time, anyone looking for information about Freemasonry or even just wanting to know more about Lodge Loch Lomond, please contact John McKenzie on 07737859442 or email mckenzie.john1943@gmail.com

John Mckenzie



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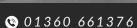


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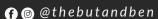
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### **News from Drymen Church**

Our Sunday morning services continue to be available on our website, but we're always keen to welcome everyone to our live Sunday services at 11.30am.

It has been good to emerge from the winter and welcome the spring sunshine. We have all been aware of the news broadcasts reporting on the rising cost of living around the world. We were able to send a donation of £740 to Christian Aid's international work. Closer to home, we thank all in the community who have generously supported our on-going collections for **Start Up Stirling Food Bank**. The next Collections will be in September .

Our 'Friday Drop in' Coffee Mornings will continue over the summer in the Winnock Hotel from 10.30 to 12 noon and you are invited to drop in for a coffee and a chat.

The "Good Companions" monthly lunches in the Church Annexe lunches have proved very popular. There will be a break over the summer but they will resume in the autumn.

The Church has a dedicated Pastoral Team to offer support:

Practical - 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)



Holiday camp. As we head into summer some of our young people are heading off to SU Camps and Christians in Sport. These are multi activity holidays at various locations across Scotland and offer excellent value for a week's holiday. They are open to children of all backgrounds and there is still time to book up for a number of weeks in July and August. For more info check out <a href="https://www.suholidays.org.uk">https://www.suholidays.org.uk</a>

We are committed to following safe practice with children and vulnerable groups. As part of this, our volunteers are renewing their training in safeguarding and we are reviewing all our teams of volunteers. If you are keen to get involved or start something new, do get in touch.



### Was school like this for you?

#### Cinderella Rockerfella

P4-7 Dazzled in a fantastic performance of Cinderella Rockerfella. From amazing drama, singing, dancing and gymnastics; Drymen Primary children certainly have talent! We want to thank the children for their excellent effort and all of the community support for the show, including props and costumes. Well done everyone!



Learning for Sustainability

Many children have been working with local volunteers to create bird feeders for the playground and to plant our own vegetables in our new planters. We look forward to harvesting these for the school dining hall soon. Next term, we will also be creating our own pollinator patch.

#### PI and P2 Outdoor Learning through Play

This year, staff in PI and P2 have been developing our approaches to play based learning with an outdoor day every Tuesday. The children have been leading their learning through different problemsolving tasks using creativity skills. We have had very positive feedback on the



impact on children's confidence and literacy skills through this approach.

#### Gold Sports Award

Drymen Primary School has been awarded the Gold sportscotland Award. This recognises schools where children's planning and involvement in sport is a main feature of the school. This year we have taken part in cross country, lacrosse, netball and football tournaments, track





and field and swimming lessons for P4-6. We have also run clubs in football, multisports, netball and lacrosse. P7 Sports Leaders organised the London Mini Marathon and sports sessions for every class.

#### **Drymen Library**

Reading for enjoyment is very important for children's success and confidence in school. Every class has visited Drymen Library at least twice in the last term to choose books and take part in literacy activities. We plan to make reading for

enjoyment a wholeschool priority for next session.

Thank you to the school community for all your support to Drymen Primary this school year. We hope everyone has an excellent summer.

Patrick Robertson, Head Teacher

### Trust update

#### **Road Safety Trial**

Drymen's Road Safety Trial, funded by the Road Safety Trust is due to start this month. DCDT is pleased that Stirling Council has agreed to our request for a 20mph speed limit in the village, however there is still a need to slow traffic and provide crossing area.



Planters will be installed during June, along with white lining to slow the speed of

traffic passing by the Village Square' and to create a new crossing. Full details at drymen.org

Remember, these measures will be temporary and there will be meetings for the community to feed back their views about it. If the trial is successful, a more permanent solution can be installed, subject to support from residents and funding to pay for it.

#### **Active Travel**

DCDT has two new E-bikes for residents to use. The E-bikes are ideally suited to active travel, replacing short car journeys with a pedal-assisted e-bike with a pannier rack and panniers. They are stored in lockers by the Village Hall and are free to hire, and the only cost is a £10 membership fee, which covers a three-month pilot scheme, sign up at drymen.org

#### **AGM**

DCDT's AGM is at 7.30 pm on Monday, June 19, at the Village Hall. Members are encouraged to come along and hear about the progress made over the last year and ask questions to the team. Refreshments will be available.

Drymen Community Development Trust

### Beware the Birdseed

By feeding birds all year round, you'll give them a better chance to survive food shortages whenever they occur, especially with the extremes of weather which look like becoming the norm.

However, make sure any birdseed you buy has 'NO GROW' on the labelling. I inadvertently stocked up feeders with seed which should

really have been labelled 'This bag will grow an entire field of unknown grain'! (see pic) Fortunately, thanks to the good weather, I was able to remove, by hand, several hundred seedlings before the garden became small fields –TIP – let them grow to a size that makes them easier to remove 'roots and all'.



John Cameron



### Drymen Guiding

Over the last few months, as well as getting on with their guiding programme that leads to their bronze, silver, and gold awards the girls have had some exciting times, including going to camp.

Camping and overnight stays are a big part of the guiding experience and this year we opted to plan and execute our own camp. We chose to go to Achachairdeis (Gaelic for 'Field of Friendship) in Gartocharn, which is a lovely 16-acre site close to the loch and the village and is an excellent setting for groups of all ages to have fun, learn and make new friends.

On the Friday night of the camp the Brownies arrived for their two-night stay in the Brownie house with an amazing range of home baking that many had helped make themselves. They were sharing a bunk room with bunkbeds and had to put on the fitted sheet themselves (which was entertaining to watch) and then set up the sleeping bags on top. The Guides also arrived on Friday night, thankfully while it was still dry, as they were camping out in the field next to the Guide hut, which was acting as our first aid station and emergency shelter just in case... They were not alone though, as we were joined by a contingent of Guides from Gargunnock. Putting up the lightweight nylon tents, some heavy-duty canvas wigwam tents, plus a very heavyduty fire shelter, with great efficiency and much laughter made for very hungry girls.

We had opted to all eat together on the first night, as we had a special treat of our

very own chef in the Brownie house kitchen who prepared a wonderful dinner for all 36 of us!

The following day the girls were joined by our Rainbows after breakfast who, as well as joining in with the day's activities, were staying the night in the Brownie house in the bunk room. The girls were all split into groups so that all sections and units

were mixed so that the older girls could mentor the younger girls and the different units could get to know each other. The groups rotated around, the whittling station for the older girls, while the younger girls planted sunflowers, and a scavenger hunt walk down the road to the Loch and back, sand art and weaving. Followed by

campfire, which is always a favourite part and where some of our girls said their joining promise for the first time.

On Sunday we were joined by even more girls as Strathblane Rainbows came to visit us at the campsite to get a taste of what camp is all about and to play wide games with our girls. Lots of fun and lots of fresh air followed by all that lovely home baking mentioned earlier.

Camp isn't the only exciting outing to be had this year - a small contingent of Brownies and Guides went off for a

special 'guiding only' showing of the new live action Little Mermaid, this is a treat that comes around only occasionally but is a great experience.

We still have our joint fun sports day with the Cubs and Scouts to go and we end with the ever-popular Midgefest in the field at Manse Bay at the end of June.

The camp duck is a story for another time.....

If you have a young person interested in Guiding, please contact Rebekah Merrick – Leckie District Commissioner on:

beccaemm@gmail.com or 07789634433

Karen Merrick

Ist Endrick Ranger Leader













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