

DRYMEN REPORTER

September 2023 Issue No. 95

Deadline for next issue 15 November

Editor - John Cameron

drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



Scouts article see Page 10

Changes - for the better?

As we're encouraged by 'health experts' to change to a Mediterranean diet it looks like climate change may be imposing a more Mediterranean climate on us – I could get used to having more siestas, but sadly, medication prohibits quaffing more wine in the sun!

Changes in village speed limits and 'traffic calming' will, I'm sure, not have gone unnoticed. Whether you agree or disagree with these changes, please read the Trust and Community Council articles and make the effort to attend drop-in sessions and meetings to make your views known. If you don't, please don't then complain about the end result.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our friend Walter Hemfrey. Walter was very active in many aspects of Drymen life – the Church, History Society, Village Hall, Community Theatre, Community Council and as a Justice of the Peace for many years. As a Community Councillor he used his knowledge of planning procedures to provide invaluable advice to the Council and the community. In 2016 he was awarded the 'Commitment to Volunteering Award' for his work in the community. Walter also had a lighter side and many people will remember him for some stellar performances in the annual pantomime. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts are with his wife Carol and daughter Kate.

John Cameron, Editor

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Drymen Community Development Trust

Drymen Community Development Trust has had a challenging few months. The community has long expressed a wish to slow traffic in the centre of the village and to have a crossing point on the main road, so in late June we installed a road safety trial that we hoped would meet those aims. The temporary trial uses lines and planters to narrow the road and provide a shorter crossing point between the Spar and the village square. It would be fair to say that the trial has had mixed reviews, with some particularly vocal objections on Facebook. We would like to apologise to those in the community who do not like it.



We held a public meeting in the village hall on 21 August to provide further information about the road safety trial and to respond to questions and comments from the community. The presentation and notes from that meeting, along with an earlier set of FAQs about the trial are available on the Drymen website here: www.drymen.org/road-safety-trial-faq.

The recently re-formed Drymen Community Council has agreed to undertake an independent survey about the trial to be made available to all members of the community. The results should provide a clear decision on the future of the current road safety trial.

DCDT exists to serve two purposes – to look after the village square on behalf of the village, and to undertake projects that reflect the wishes of the village. We sincerely hope that we can use the current high levels of engagement to identify positive solutions to road safety that have strong community support.

In other news - for some time the Trust has been looking at options to establish



public toilets in the village, and has recently been awarded a grant to undertake a feasibility / design study. This should hopefully put the village in a strong position to apply for a grant to build this much needed facility.

As always, we welcome new members to the Development Trust. It is £10 to join and can be done on our website page here: www.drymen.org/community-trust.



Make the most of the Library

We kicked off a very busy holiday season with our Summer Reading Challenge which was a huge hit with our younger readers. The theme this year was based on sports and games and all the children had to do was read six books over the holidays and, in return, get brilliant prizes such as free entry to Blairdrummond Safari Park, Briarlands Farm and Wallace Monument - there was also free swimming at Balfron High School, University of Stirling and The Peak. The challenge is presented by The Reading Agency and this year was in collaboration with the Youth Sport Trust and is delivered each year in partnership with libraries. It's been great to see the children so engaged and excited about reading. Well done to everyone who took part and completed the challenge.

Our Bookbug sessions are a huge hit and the numbers attending are growing month to month. It is lovely to see the little ones coming along and joining in the fun. We had a very special Teddy Bear's Picnic in July with stories, rhymes and songs and a visit from Bookbug too! Everyone aged 0-4 is welcome every other Friday from 10.30 to 11.00 - see future dates below.

The library continues to be a friendly hub for the community

and alongside all the books we issue every week we also host services such as the Citizens Advice Bureau every fortnight on a Monday morning. We can help you with all things digital such as iPad, iPhone, laptop issues or getting online at our IT&Me drop-in sessions every Thursday. We also have tablets available to borrow. We can support you finding work with our Learning and Employability Team or engage you in hearty conversation at our very popular book group. Whatever your needs might be, the library is always here to point you in the right direction or source information to guide you, so pop in soon and say hello. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Christina and Pamela

Bookbug – Drop-in - 15th and 29th September, 13th and 27th October, 10th and 24th November, 8th December.

IT&Me (Booking essential) – every Thursday 2pm – 4pm.

Citizens Advice – Drop in – alternate Mondays 10am – 12noon, 18th September, 2nd October, 16th and 30th October.

Learning & Employability - Contact library for appointment.

And We're Back!

Girlguiding in Drymen has begun again for a new term. We have a Rainbow section which girls can join from the age of 4yrs, if they are already in PI, if they have not yet started school then they may join from 5yrs of age. There are Brownies, Guides and Rangers too, so girls are catered for from 4-18yrs of age and if you're older than that then the new leadership programme may be what you are looking for.

We are currently still meeting outdoors and are mostly alternating our spaces between Drymen School and Balmaha,



although sometimes we will go further afield. This year we have decided to keep all sections together starting at 6.30pm and finishing at 8.00pm. Each section will work on and enjoy their own activities once we have started together, and we then end together to sing taps before departing for the week.

The first week is about getting into your groups, either sixers or patrols and choosing your emblem, so this year we have mermaids and unicorns. The girls really like their shiny badges, but it is the games that are important to help build friendships.

When we are out and about, we find ways to improvise and use the environment about us. Which is why if you were in the carpark this week you would have seen some very vigorous butter making with a rock for a work top and a jar for an improvised butter churn! Despite the heat the results were very buttery...

The younger sections were using the rocks as "seating" for their theatre denoted by grass and sand, but what a backdrop the Conic made for their plays.

We meet on Wednesdays, 6.30-8.00pm,



outdoors till October half term, thereafter in Drymen Church.

If you have a young person interested in Guiding, please contact Rebekah Merrick – Leckie District Commissioner on: beccaemm@gmail.com or 07789634433 Karen Merrick 1st Endrick Ranger Leader





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Drymen W.I.

We meet every month on the second Thursday at 2.00pm in the Winnock hotel and we look forward to the new session starting on 14th September with Christina, our friendly librarian as the speaker.

The National Conference of Scottish W.I. takes place in Perth on 15/16th September - some of our members have submitted Craft work for the display.

Within the Stirling Federation the following activities will be held; a walking activity on 25th October and Try a Craft day on 1st December in Bridge of Allan.

Details of these will be given at our meetings.

We look forward to seeing you.

Elsbeth O'Brien

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 - Composer
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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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

Sunflowers in Drymen

Not sure what it is but sunflowers seem to love the Drymen Summer.

Starting from seeds in April these monsters have proved we have had a great summer.

The sunflower is the National Flower of Ukraine and so it seems very appropriate to be supporting Ukraine by growing their flower.

These flowers (being measured by Ruby) did get help from a local gardening enthusiast who lovingly visited the flowers and ensured they were watered and protected from slugs! Ruby and I cannot claim any credit for their success this year.

I hope others can join in growing these flowers next year around Drymen.

Gavin Rowley



Sunflowers height 3m 47cm



Photo competition winner

Congratulations to Jamie Ballantine from Strathblane who recently won a Loch Lomond photo competition run by Paul Saunders.

He is particularly interested in wildlife photography and exhibits and works in Conic Crafts and is shown here with a framed copy of his winning photograph.



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Meteorology Matters

Drymen 2023	June	July	Aug
Temp highest max	29.1	24.4	23.2
Temp lowest max	12.1	15.8	16.4
Lowest min	4.8	5.3	6.3
Highest min	16.9	15.1	15.7
Mean maximum	21.7	18.8	19.2
Mean minimum	11.1	11.0	11.4
Mean temp	16.0	14.6	15.1
No. days <0	0	0	0
Monthly rain (mm)	80	132	54
Most in 24hrs (mm)	20.0	22.0	11.8
Days with >0.2mm	16	26	18
Days with >2mm	14	23	15
Days with >20mm	0	1	0
Annual rain so far	580	712	766

Temperature shown in degress Celsius

Earlier world predictions of a hot 2023 came to pass. Globally, the June temperature topped the month-average, followed by a blistering July, confirmed to be the hottest month in human history by the three top climate monitoring services: NASA, EU Copernicus and NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information. The global average sea temperature edged to a new high of 20.96°C, just exceeding the 2016 figure.

The four nations of the UK all produced record June temperatures. In Drymen, we averaged a daytime high of 21.7°C, considerably above 2nd and 3rd places of 21.0°C in 1960 and 20.9°C in 2018. The long term average for the Glasgow area is 18.1°C, so quite an uplift. Despite this, Drymen was a little wetter than expected in part due to a downpour overnight on the 18/19th as the long run of hot days ended. July was dull, cool and very soggy, in fact the 4th wettest compared the Glasgow 60-year data set. August was unremarkable.

LB

Drymen Youth Café

The Café will resume for a new session on 27th October and is open to local young people in P7 to S4. We meet in Drymen Village Hall on a Friday evening from 7.30pm.

If you would like more information, please contact us at drymenyouthcafe@gmail.com



Village in Bloom

The wildflowers on the verge in Stirling Road have been really good this year – many thanks to Scotia Seeds and everyone who helped prepare the ground and sow seeds.

Frances Lander

BITS AND PIECES

Buchanan Arms Bowling Club

Summer is almost over, and it has been a strange year for the Bowling Club - a sustained period of dry weather early in the summer played havoc with the green, followed by July and August being quite wet months.

COVID is still having an effect on the membership as some people have not rejoined this year, but we will put it behind us and, come April next year, the sun will be shining with a rush of new members (well we can but dream). But, seriously, the Bowling Club is an amenity for the village and surrounding area and without a thriving membership it may not survive.

On a lighter note, we did have some success in the Forth and Endrick knockout competitions, Gillian Munro won the ladies singles, I won the gent's singles, and our gent's pairs and mixed triples were beaten finalists. During the winter some members will be bowling indoors at Fintry, and I wish them an enjoyable and successful winter season.

As always, anyone wishing to know more about the Club contact myself on John McKenzie tel: 07737859442, email mckenzie.john1943@gmail.com

Probus Club of Lomond

September sees the start of a new season of meetings for Probus Club of Lomond. With the odd exception, the Club will be meeting in the Village Hall on the second and fourth Thursday of each month until the end of April. Another interesting and varied programme of talks has been arranged beginning with Bob Scott speaking about his experiences in Somalia on 14 September. As always members will be able to join in a discussion after each talk before adjourning for further debate over lunch in the Clachan.

Regular meetings are augmented with a number of walks and visits starting with a trip to the dam above Loch Sloy Power Station on 18 September. This was meant to take place as part of a visit to the Power Station last March but had to be called off due to an unexpected snowfall.

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

Lodge Loch Lomond No. 1483

By the time this magazine is issued we will have had our first meeting of the new season and we look forward to an enjoyable winter session.

During the summer the usual bowls, fishing and golf competitions have been held by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, and almost £5000 has been raised and donated to various charities throughout the county. Lodge Loch Lomond meet on the first Thursday of the month September to April, excluding January, so, if there are any members of Freemasonry who live locally, come and give us a visit, or if you are not, and would maybe like to know more about Freemasonry, contact myself John McKenzie, tel. 07737859442, email mckenzie.john1943@gmail.com

Drymen & District Senior Citizens' Association

As the days get shorter we turn our attentions to winter pursuits again and we have a syllabus full of new entertainers and speakers to, hopefully, tempt you to venture out and join us.

For our purposes you're a senior citizen when you're 60 (if only the government felt the same!) and new members are always very welcome. Membership is £10 per year, and you get an hour's entertainment followed by afternoon tea (please bring your own cup or mug), with a subsidised Christmas Lunch, High Tea and an outing in May.

Alexandria Mandolin Club are kindly kicking off the new season for us this year when we meet in Drymen Village Hall on Tuesday 18th September at 2pm. The October meeting is on Tuesday 17th at 2pm when Julie Symmonds has us doing a bit of dancercise; even if you're not able to take part, it's entertaining to watch! Our November meeting is on Tuesday 21st when accordionist Charlie Kirkpatrick will give us some toe-tapping music and a few stories.

I apologise that I won't manage to the first meeting (our President will tell you why but don't worry it's a lovely reason!) but I look forward to seeing you all in October, although I can be contacted on 01360 660706 or drymensenioretcitizens@gmail.com

Linda (More), Secretary

What's going on in the Hall

Now that the schools are back, our regular groups are starting back up in the Village Hall:

Monday: 09.30-11.30 Drymen Under 5's;
12.00-15.00 Hall Open Doors Session;
15.45-16.45 Desta Laiolo Ballet and Theatre School

Tuesday: 09.30-10.45 Sharmi Yoga;
14.00-17.00 Hall Open Doors Session
15.15-20.30 EM Choreography

Wednesday: 09.30-11.30 Drymen Under 5's;
13.00-16.00 Drymen Art Club

Thursday: 09.45-12.00 Probus Club of Lomond (every 2nd Thur);
13.00-16.00 Drymen Bridge Club;
18.30-19.30 Pilates;
19.00-21.00 History Society (4th Thursday of the month)

Friday: 10.00-15.00 Hall Open Doors Session (including Craft'n'Craic from 10-12);
11.00-12.00 Neighbourfood Collections

Saturday: 15.00 Saturday Cinema (time may be subject to change, keep an eye on our Facebook page!)

Autumn Open Doors Sessions will include some free events, including our Ghoulish Gathering on Halloween! Craft'n'Craic on a Friday is our new Knit and Natter, to include all our crafters who don't knit; bring along your current crafty project and have a cuppa and a chat while you work!

Our Saturday Cinema shows a family friendly film each week. Join the Hall Cinema group on Facebook for more information on showings.

Working alongside Balfron and Fintry we hope to start a roaming Repair Café, which would visit the rural villages in the G63 area. If you would like more information about this, or would like to help out, contact us at halloffice@drymen.org or pop in to one of our Open Doors sessions with any queries. We are always looking for new ideas for activities and events at the hall, so if you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to get in touch!

October will mark the end of an era at Drymen Village Hall, as our Treasurer Jackie Mackay steps down from her role after 8 years of looking after the hall.

On behalf of the hall committee, and everyone that has used the hall, we'd like to thank Jackie for all the hard work she has put in over the last 9 years to make the hall what it is now. Thanks to Jackie's effort there is a great sense of community that surrounds the Hall; higher levels of engagement and participation; and a whole host of new activities that will continue to sustain the hall's place at the centre of the community. None of which could have been achieved without Jackie's work to secure on-going funding opportunities, to improve the facilities available at the hall, and the physical effort of putting up and clearing away all those tables and chairs! Hall coordinator, Rowan and the Village Hall Committee would like to wish Jackie well for the future and hope to still see her taking part in activities at the hall.



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Fergus Brown – a very talented young golfer

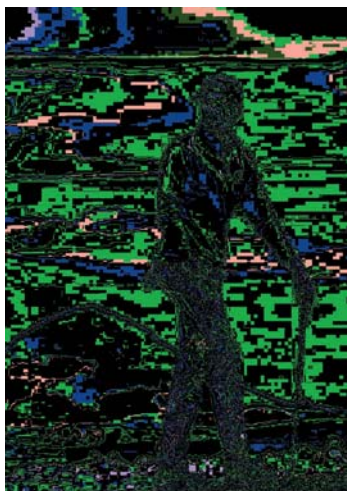
It's some years since we reported on young local golfer Fergus Brown and I'm delighted to say that at 17, he's; left school; is pursuing a golfing career; playing off a handicap of +4; and has the possibility of a USA golf scholarship of which he is undecided. Recent successes led to Scottish Golf inviting him to join their winter development squad, represent Scotland in Slovakia and, claiming points for his country, resulted in him being selected to play for Scotland at the Home Internationals in Lindrick in Yorkshire. Following a recent 3-round win with the Junior Tour Scotland he is now on the World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR) ladder which opens up many other tournaments. Coming winter championships include North of England Amateur and the Portuguese Intercollegiate.



He still practices daily at Buchanan Castle and hopes to enjoy some rugby with Strathendrick RFC this winter as he trains for the 2024 golf season.

Well done Fergus. I hope you continue to enjoy the game as you learn your craft and we wish you every success in the future. *Just looking at the figure of +4 at the beginning of this little write-up, it strikes me that many players would be only too pleased to take +4 for a single hole!*

Ed.



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

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

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Balfron Recycling Centre opening hours

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 Saturday 10am - 2pm

Booking online is now essential.
See Stirling Council website
www.stirling.gov.uk

Drymen Art Club 2023 - 24

The Drymen Art Club is a friendly and informal group that meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1 pm – 4 pm from the end of September to the end of March in Drymen Village Hall. Members bring their own materials to work on their own projects in a supportive environment. Extra support and encouragement are provided by our Club tutor.

This session, our first meeting is on Wednesday 27th September. We welcome visitors to see what we do and to decide if they would like to become members. This session, the Club is having its first outing to the National

Gallery in Edinburgh on Friday 8th September, and we are looking forward to exploring this fascinating museum. The annual Club Lunch will be held at the Winnoch Hotel on Wednesday 22nd November. We also hope to have a stall at the Village Christmas Fayre. The culmination of the Club year is the Annual Exhibition on Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st April 2024. This is a fantastic showcase for our members' work and is well worth a visit.

If you would like to find out more about the Club, please contact the Club Secretary, Morag Findlay, on 07868 540 488 or at morag.findlay87@gmail.com

26th Drymen Scout Group

Cubs and Scouts started back after the summer holidays and it's hard to believe that, at the time of writing, we have only had three Wednesday nights!

Week 1 was the chance for Cubs and Scouts to get back into the swing of things and renew friendships. Our young people travel from Drymen, Gartmore, Aberfoyle, Balfron and Gartocharn so they had lots of catching up to do. Scouts were able to focus on planning their activities for the next few months and cubs worked on their teambuilding and my new favourite game "evacuation" - ask a cub to learn more about it!

Week 2 and scouts were off to the local indoor bike park. Jumps and other tricks were on the agenda, and we managed another night on bikes with all returning home uninjured, save the stress level of the leaders.

Cubs spent week 2 outside in the local area of Drymen and learnt new tracking skills. Scouting was started by Lord Baden Powell, who based many of the skills he taught on those he had learnt from African Scouts whom he had worked with in Africa. Tracking is still a skill we enjoy and use regularly.



We attended a district event at Barrwood Campsite (near Stirling). Tunnelling, open fire cooking, knots, pioneering and many other activities ensured all participants were ready for bed after the 10-hour day of outdoor fun.

Our last Wednesday in August saw us enjoying a beautiful evening in Balmaha.

We caught the 5:42pm bus to Balmaha and, after a quick outdoor game, we all headed up Conic Hill - reaching the top around an hour later to enjoy the view of the Highland/Lowland Divide and a few refreshments. We were so proud of all 25



cubs and 8 scouts; not everyone found it easy and yet all made it to the top. Heading back down the hill was a bit easier and we made it back to catch the 8:16pm bus home. We always enjoy the challenge and have never missed the bus.....YET!! We had enjoyed a beautiful dry, sunny and midge-free (almost) evening - raingear never needed and yet, as we arrived back in Drymen, we were greeted by wet roads and parents waiting with umbrellas.



A great start to our autumn term and with just under 3 months until we take a break for Christmas we have lots of activities planned for our young people aged 8-16yrs.

Scouting needs 3 things: enthusiastic cubs & scouts, skilled and committed adults and financial support.

We must publicly thank Croftamie Coffee Club, Drymen Show and Buchanan Community Hydro Society for their very generous financial support in the last 6 months.

If you would like to get involved with our scouting then please get in touch. We are always looking for adults who can offer a small amount of time to ensure we continue our adventures.

Gavin Rowley



Macmic development Stirling/ Gartness Road

There has been a slight change to the number of houses to be built under the current approved application. The change was approved by LLTNP on 26th June 2023 (LLTNP 2022/0265/75A) – the total number of houses is down to 85, with 12 'low-cost housing' and 30 'affordable housing' units.

The original entrance into the field east of the telephone exchange, has been blocked off with a fence as the exchange ground has been extended. The entrance to the 'temporary' car park which they are supposed to build to replace the existing car park while work is carried out on the first houses, will I assume be even further out the Stirling Road i.e. further

away from the centre of the village and shops etc. making life difficult for anyone who is less able-bodied. In addition, I believe the original approved plans show a crossing from that car park to the north side of the road (there is no footpath on the south side past Ardmore Gardens), so everyone parking there to go to Spar will have to cross Stirling Road four times, on a single trip. Perhaps this should be considered in the current discussion on 'road safety trial'.

While I agree cycling is good for the planet and our health, needing a folding bike in the car boot just to get a newspaper and a pint of milk is ridiculous!

Ed.

Donations for 'Reporter'

Thanks to the generosity of residents and visitors who made a donation when they picked up a copy of the 'Reporter' from the Library, Conic Crafts or Gartocharn village shop over the last 18 months, we're pleased to be able to send off a cheque for £200 to the UK Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. As the 'Reporter' is non-profitmaking, we can only do this as the cost of printing and distributing the 'Reporter' (currently £1.15 per copy) is covered by our faithful advertisers and we are incredibly grateful for their support.

There are obviously many worthy causes and deserving charities, not least victims of Libyan floods and Moroccan earthquake, but the donations raised in the last 18 months were made to boxes specifically for the Ukrainian Appeal and we must honour that pledge.

The 'Reporter' Team

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Church News

We're always pleased to welcome newcomers who have moved into the community. Rev Alex Smeed is our interim minister, providing continuity during the long months of "the vacancy" before we can call a minister and he leads our Sunday morning services at 11.30 am. The services are recorded and can be accessed on the Drymen Church website; however, we'd much prefer to welcome you on Sunday mornings!

The new season of the **Good Companions Lunches** (for folk over 60) resumes in September, taking place on the second Monday of every month in the Annex from noon - 2pm. All welcome - more information on the posters in the village.

The **Blythswood Care Christmas Shoebox Appeal** starts now and filled shoeboxes or items for inclusion in the boxes or even empty shoeboxes are most welcome. For more information contact J Bain on 660662 or look at the website www.blythswood.org. Donations can be given to a member of the church or handed in on Sunday mornings from 10.30am by the end of November.

The **Remembrance Day Service** this year will take place in the Church at 11.30am on Sunday 12th November followed by a parade to the War Memorial for a short service and the laying of wreaths.



The Church has a dedicated **Pastoral Team** to offer support:

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- initial contact, Mairi Van Looy (07929 110765)

Alison Brown

Drymen Community Council Re-formed

We were delighted to welcome so many of the community to our inaugural meeting on Tuesday 5th September. It was a very positive meeting with interesting and balanced discussions on a variety of topics. Key points discussed and agreed were:

Road Safety Trial: this is being implemented by Drymen Community Development Trust (the Trust) who has asked Drymen Community Council (DCC) to undertake an impartial and independent survey of the Trial. The questionnaire is being drafted taking on board feedback given at our first meeting. In addition, we want to ensure the community is involved in this process so two drop in sessions are being held where anyone able can attend to review the draft survey and provide useful feedback. The first of these will already have taken place by the time this Reporter is published. The second **drop in session** will be held in the Village Hall **on Wednesday 27th September between 6-8pm**. Lastly, it was agreed that we would then present the finalised questionnaire back to the community at our next meeting on Tuesday 3rd October.

Public toilets: the Trust advised that it has been successful in obtaining a grant to undertake a feasibility study for public toilets in Drymen. In addition to this a member of our community had undertaken some detailed research that may support being able to obtain use of an existing local premise and this will be investigated further.

Hedges: there was consensus in the room that the hedges in a variety of locations substantially overhang the pavements impeding their use safely as walkways by all. We undertook to carry out a review of hedges across the village to identify all locations where overhanging hedges may be an issue to allow an informed decision to be made on how to resolve.

Local buses: a local bus service between Drymen and Balfron was discussed, including the possibility of a community bus. Many options were discussed and it was agreed we would speak to the Trust.

These are just a few examples of what was discussed, full meeting minutes can be found in Drymen Library. We encourage everyone able in our community to come to our next meeting to be part of shaping and supporting what is already a great place to live, work and visit!

Should you have any questions, concerns or ideas please do not hesitate to contact us by email: support@drymencc.org, by dropping a letter into to the DCC post-box in Drymen Library or by contacting us on our Facebook page.



40 Years of 'murrdurs' remembered

Actor Blythe Duff and local Fay Macluskie, whose home near Balmaha was used for a location shoot for the 2005 Taggart episode 'A Taste of Money', recently officially opened drop-in sessions for 'Taggart: The People's Archive' a project at Glasgow Caledonian University marking 40 years of 'Taggart' by compiling memories of people who were involved in the series. Archivists have been so overwhelmed by the response, that they have extended their deadline till the end of this month to allow more people to contribute their memories.

Quite a few episodes were filmed around the Drymen area so, if you were involved in a Taggart 'murrduurr' you can submit your Taggart tales online until September 30 via the online form, which takes the form of a Police Incident Report – go to www.gcu.ac.uk and search for 'Taggart'.

Drymen Primary News

New Journalists!

This year, P7s will take responsibility for writing Drymen Primary's news in the Drymen Reporter. Well done to Molly, Jacob and Fergus for their article.

Our New Nursery



The move to Drymen Nursery from Croftamie has been very successful! Children and staff told us that it is an easier location for the nursery children to get to nursery, and it is easier for the parents to drop off older siblings at the school on their way past.

They love the new nursery space and there is a massive garden with lots of new toys. One child stated, "I like seeing my brother in P1 over the fence". They have a space to ride their bikes around a track in the garden safely with a helmet on. More children are now walking to the nursery too.

The new garden is a lot easier for staff to see all the children and they are spending lots of time outdoors including planting sunflowers. The children still miss Croftamie but the feedback from the children is that Drymen Nursery is fantastic!



Novel Studies

In Term 1, most classes have been reading novels at the start of term as part of their Literacy. Examples of this are the following: P2/3 novel is Matilda, P4/5 novel is The Explorer, P5/6 is Kensuke's Kingdom and P7 novel is Divided city.

Clubs in School

Football club, reading club and lacrosse are starting back up and gymnastics is going to start too. The school is also getting a basketball court outside on the main playground for basketball in the summer and for children to play with after school if it is a nice day.

Buddy Training

The P1s are settling in nicely and P7s are receiving Buddy Training, which is helping them to know the P1s better and to settle in.

P6 will soon be Reading Buddies for P2 again this year.

Class Charters UNCRC

Every year, we learn about children's rights. All classes have a class charter which sets out how we want our classrooms to be.

Molly, Jacob and Fergus



Not your boring school History lessons!

Did you know **Glasgow Police force was the oldest force in the UK?** Or sonar was developed at Fairlie near Largs? No? Well, these are just two of the six interesting, illustrated talks we have lined up for the History Society's winter meetings (in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month) so, why not come and find out more about these and other topics listed below.

28 September 2023 - 'Fairlie's secret war' - Dr John Riddell - The Royal Navy's Anti-Submarine Experimental Establishment moved from Portland to the boatyard in Fairlie during WWII and was prominent in the development of Sonar (originally known as Asdic) which helped in the battle against U-boats and reduced the losses of Allied ships.

26 October 2023 - 'It all started with Rob Roy' - James Kennedy, Chair of Loch Ard Heritage Society – an illustrated talk on film making in the Trossachs, 1911-1953. Come and see Hollywood's idea of the famous cateran and hear the accounts of local people who served as extras.

23 November 2023 - 'History of Glasgow Police, the oldest Police force in the UK' - Alastair Dinsmor, Curator of the Glasgow Police Museum in Bell Street, Glasgow, - we hope to follow up the talk with a later visit to the Museum for interested members.

25 January 2024 - 'The legacy of Robert Burns' - an illustrated talk by Len Murray, very well-known Glasgow lawyer and Burns expert.

22 February 2024 - 'The history of Duntreath Castle and Estate' – Eddie Edmonstone.

28 March 2024 - 'Ben Lomond; history of the mountain and surrounding area' – Alistair Eckersall of National Trust for Scotland.

25 April 2024 - Members' Night – pre-meeting cheese, wine, and soft drinks at 7pm followed by short talks by members and the annual AGM.

Membership is £10 per year (includes entry to all meetings), and visitors are welcome (£3 per lecture). We also maintain an 'archive' of articles and photographs of local interest which can be viewed in the Library - the Archives list can be accessed via our web site, www.drymen-history.org.uk. We have a strong record of publishing booklets of local history interest, available to buy in the Library or direct from the Society. Titles include 'The History of Croftamie School', 'Buchanan Castle in wartime', 'The rise and decline of the railways in Drymen' and 'The poems of Sam Henry, the Drymen poet'.

Blink and you'll miss them!

Quite a few locals turned out to the bypass on 12th and 13th August as **World Championship cyclists (Men's U23 and Elite/ U23 Women)** paid a fleeting visit as they cycled from **Balloch to Glasgow via Balfron, Fintry and the Crow Road - 169km (105 miles) for men and 154 km (96 miles for women)**. Locals were joined on the day by visitors from across the world, many of whom had relatives or friends competing.

Both races were completed without incident, unlike the Men's Road Race which was stopped near Carron Reservoir for nearly an hour by protesters on the road. For seasoned world class riders this was a chance to just chat to their friends in other teams, with one taking the opportunity to use the bathroom facility of a nearby house – it's not known whether the householder now has a commemorative plaque in the little room!





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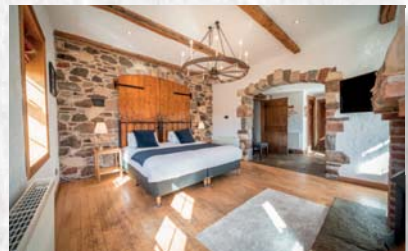
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