

DRYMEN REPORTER

March 2021 Issue No. 85

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drymenreporter2017@gmail.com



A real community

The vaccines are working, spring flowers are appearing, the birds are singing, the first butterfly appeared on 1st March and this 85th 'Reporter' is packed with articles from organisations, all looking to the future with optimism and enthusiasm - I hope some rubs off as you read on.

On behalf of the community, I have to say a sincere 'Thank you' to everyone who responded to help those in need during the lockdown; the 'Covid-19 Support Group' has done (and continues to do) tremendous work; 'thank you' also to the many organisations and individuals we don't hear about, often neighbours supporting neighbours or just being mindful of them. The pandemic is a tragedy, but it has helped create a new sense of community. As Edmund Burke the Irish philosopher said, '*Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little*'. If we all play a small part in the community, we can make a better future.

We're very grateful to new team members, Jakki and Sandra, for their help with this very quickly produced edition and we look forward to working together on future editions.

Breaking news!

Councillor Davis advised the Community Council meeting on 2nd March that Croftamie Nursery move to Drymen Primary has been delayed by a year and the expansion of Drymen Primary (extra classroom) has been delayed for a couple of years. No further details are currently available 3/3/21.

John Cameron

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New Hanover Housing

Hanover Scotland are proud to be working with Cruden Building on the construction of 15 Passivhaus* houses at our former Conic Way site in Drymen.

Conic Way was the first development to be managed by Hanover Scotland when the organisation started in 1979. Work to decommission the site was completed in 2019, following extensive consultations with our residents and the local community.

Our hopes to commence site works in 2020 were postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions, which meant that much of the planning work and proposed construction timescale had to be delayed.

We now anticipate that construction will begin in spring 2021 and would like to thank our customers and the wider Drymen community for their continued cooperation with the project.

We are enthusiastic about providing the new homes which reflect the history of

the site and our vision of modern and accessible properties for our customers. We are also grateful to our contractors, Cruden Building, ECD architects, Stantec and TCS Construction Consultants who have supported the design and planning of the new build.

Adam Curry, Director of Organisational Services at Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Ltd

About Hanover (Scotland)

- Hanover is one of Scotland's largest housing associations for older people, managing more than 5,000 properties for tenants and owners and providing commercial services to more than 40,000 people.

- Hanover's housing stock includes sheltered, very sheltered, housing with care, amenity and owner occupied properties.

- Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC014738) and Registered Property Factor (00140)

- For more information, visit: www.hanover.scot/

*Information about Passivhaus designs

- Passivhaus is a modern style of building design

- Properties provide high levels of occupant comfort while using minimal energy for heating or cooling.

- Passivhaus properties are built to high design and construction standards

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- The name originates from the Passivhaus Institute in Germany



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Primary School PTA

We are so thankful to all the staff at Drymen Primary School for their continued care and focus on the wellbeing of our children. Together, we have been able to discuss and share with parents the changes that those involved in school life have been going through.

Attendance at our online PTA meetings has been great, thanks to everyone for your time and contributions during these sessions. We have been busy and successful in many different fundraising projects, to raise funds for different resources that the children can use to enrich school life, such as Chromebooks and numeracy resources. A big thanks goes to Jodie Allan, Jakki Sendall, Laura Gordon and Michelle Eddleston for their extra time in helping with this.

One easy way for everyone in the community to have fun and raise money to help support our school at the same time, is to play Our School Lottery! Have a look here <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/drymen-primary-school> for more info.

We have ideas to further support the school with getting an Outdoor Classroom, planting an orchard and literacy materials. If you think you could help the PTA, please get in touch!

If you're not on the PTA email list and would like to be, please let us know on ptadrymen@gmail.com

Charlie, Carol and Carolyn

Senior Citizens

Well folks, time is marching on and unfortunately it doesn't seem like we're going to be able to get together at all for 2020/21. It's great that there's light at the end of the tunnel, and most of us will now have had our first vaccine, but we'll need to be patient and live with the restrictions for a bit longer yet. When we do get together again, we'll not need an entertainer for the first meeting as we'll have too much blethering to do just catching up with each other!

Sadly, our wee group haven't come through unscathed; it was with enormous sadness that we learned of the passing of Donna Mays. She was a lovely lady; a loyal member and her ready smile and friendship will be greatly missed by us all. Our thoughts are with her family at this especially difficult time.

On speaking to friends, I think many of us are perhaps feeling a bit more insular in this lockdown and slower to pick up the phone for a blether, therefore if you haven't heard from me for a while please pick up the phone and give me a call! (660706)

In the meantime, may we all have the fortitude to accept gracefully what we cannot change but the optimism to look forward to a time when we can get together again for some light entertainment, a cuppa, a blether and the companionship of each other. Stay safe friends.

Linda (More), Secretary

Bridge Club

We are a small friendly club of bridge players, open to and welcoming all age groups. Our season starts in September each year and finishes in April the following year. We stopped playing in February 2020 but, with the anticipated end of restrictions this summer, we hope to recommence in autumn 2021. Subject to what is allowed maybe Thursday 9th September could be our start date and we will be pleased to welcome back all our existing members and delighted if we have new members to join us. We meet in Drymen Village Hall from 1300 to 1630 on Thursdays.

One week a month we run a club competition for which you would need your own regular partner to participate. However, all other weeks you just need to turn up and a partner can be found for you. You could of course prearrange a partner if one is available.

Beginners and Learners: We do not offer lessons at the moment but if enough interest was expressed then arrangements could be made. Please contact either of the committee members below to express your interest.

John MacGregor johndmacg@hotmail.com
01877 387287

Anita Anderson anita.j.anderson@talktalk.net
01389 830641

David MacDonald "Quality Family Butchers"

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Art Club

Over the past year in lockdown we have lost five members or former members.

Our President Bill Black served the Club for many years, highly respected as an artist, always modest, encouraging and a friend to us all. Bunny Campbell our resident tutor for more than 10 years building our skills and was a significant artist in her own right. Mike Gastall was a loyal servant of the club acting as secretary and administrator while quietly producing colourful watercolour paintings of places visited on his worldwide cruises.

The Art Club will build on the legacies left by these outstanding people. With 22 members this year we have a solid core of keen artists ready to paint together when it is safe to do so - 22nd September is a provisional start date. With no Exhibitions in 2020 and 2021 an additional exhibition in October is planned and with the increasing volume of work developing new skills the Club will deliver a most exciting exhibition.

Art Club member Colette Rybarczyk made most attractive decorations for the Village Hall windows to complement the 'Advent Windows' brightening up Drymen over the Christmas period.

If you are interested in joining the Art Club contact the secretary, Tom Gilchrist, to ask for an Application Form. (Email: gilchristthomas@aol.com)

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Let us know if you can help

If you have any interesting articles we would love to receive them. Please send emails or word documents to John Cameron at drymenreporter2017@gmail.com

The Team

John Cameron - Editor

Claire Pocock - Composer

Frances Lander

Jakki Sendall

Sandra Dalziel

Tom Duncan - Delivery

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

Printing

J.Thomson Colour Printers.

Tel 0141 429 1094

Next issue June

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

15th May

Local services

Library

While the Library remains closed, if you have access to the Internet, you can still access reading material through the library service. The app for accessing books (adult and junior), audio books and magazines changed recently from 'Rbdigital' to the new 'Libby' app, which can be downloaded from <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>

You will find lots of fun things happening every day on Stirling Libraries Facebook page

https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/StirlingLibs/photos/?ref=page_internal including quizzes, activities and Bookbug songs, rhymes and stories.

The 'Small Print' junior book festival will be held on the Libraries Facebook page on 4th, 5th and 6th March with live and pre-recorded author sessions, bedtime stories and more Bookbug fun.

If you enjoy reading, like to share good reads with others, and want to find recommendations on what to read next, Stirling Libraries is launching a new online book group called 'Daft About Books' – find more information on social media and

for more online resources on Scotland's Culture and Heritage go to <https://stirling.gov.uk/libraries-archives/>

RBS

Mobile bank not currently operating.

Drymen Pharmacy

Telephone: 01360 661285

Monday to Friday 9am – 6pm

Saturday 9am – 1pm

Balfron Recycling Centre opening hours

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See Stirling Council website

www.stirling.gov.uk



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Meteorology Matters

Unusually for September, we had our first air frost on the 26th and early risers that week had to scrape their windscreen a further three times due to grass frosts. We missed the colossal rains that affected Aberdeenshire where many places topped 100mm in a day – Stonehaven had 124mm.

The first Halloween ‘Blue Moon’ (the second of two full moons in a single calendar month) since 1974 became visible when cloud and rain cleared.

We had a light snowfall in early December, but Edinburgh residents were wakened at 5am by a phenomenon known as ‘Thundersnow’ causing traffic chaos. Skies cleared on 21st in time to see Jupiter and Saturn in alignment for the first time in 800yrs - dubbed the ‘Star of Bethlehem’.

January and February produced frosts with a vengeance. The sharpest was -9.3°C on 8th January. The months pairing ranked 7th for air frosts over of the last 60 years with 29 in total, behind

| Drymen 20-21 | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Temp highest max | 21.8 | 17.4 | 14.6 | 12.6 | 9.4 | 12.0 |
| Temp lowest max | 13.8 | 9.1 | 5.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Highest min | 13.0 | 10.6 | 12.4 | 7.6 | 3.6 | 7.1 |
| Lowest min | -1.8 | 0.9 | -1.6 | -5.3 | -9.3 | -8.4 |
| Mean maximum | 16.3 | 13.0 | 10.7 | 6.6 | 4.3 | 6.5 |
| Mean minimum | 8.3 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 0.5 | -1.2 | 2.0 |
| Mean temp | 11.8 | 9.1 | 7.8 | 4.1 | 1.2 | 4.3 |
| No. days <0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 18 | 7 |
| Monthly rain (mm) | 102 | 154 | 112 | 139 | 104 | 144 |
| Most in 24hrs (mm) | 27.9 | 25.1 | 17.5 | 29.7 | 16.5 | 36.9 |
| Days with >0.2mm | 18 | 24 | 21 | 28 | 28 | 21 |
| Days with >2mm | 8 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 14 |
| Days with >20mm | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Annual rain so far | 1060 | 1214 | 1326 | 1465 | 104 | 248 |

1963, 1979, 1959, 1986, 1985 and 2010. January on its own took 5th place. February 4th was the wettest day of the season with 36.9mm of precipitation. A week of sharp frosts followed that, including -8.4°C, creating the right conditions for powder snow around 10th

Temperature shown in °C

February. Thereafter, the Jetstream started to fluctuate, and double digits daytime temperatures were established bringing the meteorological Winter to a milder end.

Lorna Buchanan

Mactaggart and Mickel update

The final Decision document granting permission was issued on 11th November 2020, and MacTaggart & Mickel are currently promoting the development on their website under the title of **MacGregor’s Brae**. No details regarding commencement date are available. The full approved plan is no. 22 in the list of documents on the Park’s planning schedule under 2018/0139/DET.

Walter Hemfrey

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.



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BITS AND PIECES

Local History Society

Like so many local groups, organisations and businesses our Society has been on lockdown.

We are hopeful that the vaccinations we have recently begun to receive will make a significant difference and halt the progress of the virus which has threatened us for such a long time. All being well, the lockdown will be coming to an end in the coming months.

Our plan is to resume our activities with a programme of meetings beginning on Thursday 23rd September in Drymen Village Hall at 7.45pm when (we hope!) Alan McBride, Ranger at Mugdock Country Park will give an illustrated talk on "The Elephant, the Marquis and the Castle". We look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new members, so please make a note of that date in your diary!

Alison Brown

Rag Bag recycling

On the 5th of February Drymen Primary School took delivery of its first Outdoor Textile Bank. The Rag Bag Recycling Scheme has been developed to provide regular fundraising for schools and nurseries in Scotland. The scheme increases awareness about textile recycling and by increasing recycling rates we can help the environment by ensuring less material goes to landfill. Every time the bank is emptied the school receives money, which will go towards anything needed to help the children prosper and enjoy school life. Once picked up, the clothing is graded at the UK's largest textile recycling facility where over 300 trained people are employed to sort and grade the materials prior to export around the world.



If anyone wishes to kindly donate clothing, paired shoes, handbags, or belts, local pick up's can be arranged from your door. Bags can also be provided. Please contact Kate McKie on 07923 002636.

Drymen in Bloom

With lockdown in place last Spring we were unable to have a work group to tidy up the Square garden but some of the herbaceous plants were tidied up later in the year. In the Autumn volunteers planted 1400 tulip bulbs in the barrels and troughs in the village – many thanks to everyone.

War Memorial

One ton of Buckie quartz was purchased from J. Bilsland, Croftamie and was used to cover the ground area where *Cotoneaster* had been removed from the wall at the back of the memorial. Thanks to Drymen Community Council for paying for the gravel and Stirling Council Land Services who did the hard work of spreading it before Remembrance Day.

Many thanks to C.J. Lang, Dundee (Spar), residents and Swap Shop for their donations toward the cost of plants and bulbs. Also thanks for the donations in the collection box at the Drymen Hub.

This summer we are going to have a competition for the best window box in the village that can be seen from the road.

Marina Brennan

Women's Institute

It's hard to believe that one whole year has passed since we last met face to face to enjoy an illustrated talk about our national Park. When will we meet again?

Presently, thanks to Zoom, institutes are in contact with our Federation in Stirling with monthly virtual meetings, which keeps us informed about plans out of 'lockdown'.

The W.I. organisation has not been slow to adopt technology and the many classes and talks available keep our interest going and are a real benefit to people on their own and those who are isolating. Drymen Institute is working up to a Zoom meeting but, in the meantime, members receive the monthly Federation newsletter along with any bits of news.

At Christmas everyone received a gift and a card which were much appreciated.

Now, for those who are interested, we have a couple of knitting projects on the go. More about this later!

We look forward to getting together in person, but for now we'll follow the rules and keep on doing whatever keeps us happy and healthy.

Elsbeth O'Brien

Drymen Community Trust



In December, we organised Drymen Advent Windows (the idea of a Trust member), with a different home or business volunteering to decorate their window on a designated day - as we couldn't stage the annual light switch-on due to Covid restrictions we thought that this would be a good way for the community to share the build-up to Christmas.

The decorated windows were of a very high standard, with lots of effort from all involved and we were delighted that the Art Club, Drymen Church, Drymen Primary School children and Skoosh participated along with many residents. Feedback was extremely positive, and many said they enjoyed following our map to see each of the decorated lit windows. We plan to run this again in December.

There has been a Christmas tree on the Square each year since 1980 and this year's tree, one of the best we've had, was kindly donated by the Duff family from their Christmas Tree farm in Buchlyvie.

At our last AGM Tom Wallace, Mhairi Duncan and David McCulloch stepped down from the Trust board after many years of service to the community. We are very grateful for their hard work and valuable contributions.

We are very pleased to welcome David Mackie and Robert Coleman to the team, as well as former Chair Struan Robb to join David Allan, Richard Boddington (Secretary), Ewan MacKay (Treasurer) and Paul Saunders (Chair). It is not intentionally an all-male team and we would warmly welcome anyone that would like to join our monthly meetings.

During the last few months, we have received a good number of new and renewed memberships. Membership is crucial both for our funding and as a way of gaining feedback to ensure that we represent the views of the community.

To keep members updated we have started a new monthly newsletter and are receiving useful feedback from members about our planned activities during 2021. If you would like to





become a member the cost is £6 per annum (£10 for couples), please get in touch at membership@drymen.org

The Trust looks after the Square on behalf of the Community, who own it. This consists of the green, pathways and surrounding road area. In recent times we have repaired and renewed many of the benches and also decorated and maintained the bus shelter. The road area and pathways remain in urgent need of attention and fundraising to renew all the existing paths last year was sadly delayed due to Covid.

Our priority this spring/summer is to renew the car parking spaces outside the butcher's, together with adjoining pathways which are urgently in need of repair. We are just short of the funds for this work and will work to secure the required funding over the next few months. If anyone can support this project, then contributions would be very welcome.

Once this work has been completed, we will continue to seek funding to allow us to complete the resurfacing of all the remaining pathways across and around the Square.

Other projects that we are working on is the creation of a new website for the village and working with Drymen Village Hall on a new booking system. We would like to hear from any other groups or organisations in the village who would benefit

from website pages to communicate with existing members and attract new ones.

Finally, we are organising a Village Spring Clean on Saturday 27th March. Meet at the Village Square at 9am, please observe social distancing and bring gloves and bin bag(s) for rubbish. We'll disperse around the village to pick up litter.

If you'd like more information about the Trust please contact us at hello@drymen.org

Paul Saunders





NEIGHBOUR FOOD

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Charles Crescent play park upgrade complete!!



At the end of last year, Stirling Council installed the last few items in the park. They completed the basket swing, installed a toddler multi-play unit, spring rockers, a new bench and a bike rack. We are delighted with the outcome and it's great to see so many children enjoying all the space either playing on their bikes or on the new equipment.

Unfortunately, the park is very muddy with all the work and the rain recently, so, at the moment, we highly recommend wellies!

Three planters have been installed at the East entrance, one of which has been populated with plants and the other two will soon have vegetables growing in them. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped, especially those who helped with

shovelling the soil into the planters and planting all the bulbs and plants! We would also like to thank the following organisations for their funding - Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust, Awards for All, Stirling Council and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park - without this support we simply wouldn't have been able to upgrade the play park.

Carol and Charlie

'Rocketfund'



On Friday 12th March Drymen Primary School will launch 'Rocketfund' to raise £1,000 to create an exciting 'Technology Hub' within our school to provide opportunities for creative learning experiences. The children have shared ideas of what technology resources would be fun and interesting to support their learning and creative play. These include green screen animation, coding resources, K-Nex, wildlife camera and other technologies to appeal to all age groups in our school. We have also started to plan a design as to how the Technology Hub might look.

It is hoped that our 'Technology Hub' will:

- Promote teamwork, creativity and skills for life for all our children
- Create an exciting environment to support child-led learning and projects across different curriculum areas
- Include all children in their learning, responding to varied interests and skills, to achieve their full potential in Science Technology Engineering and Mechanical (STEM) subjects. In turn, providing an awareness of different career pathways

Why is it needed? Parent, Pupil and Teacher Views

"The technology hub would be an exciting and welcome addition to our school and more resources to develop creativity would be most welcome. Remote learning has shown us the

potential for technology and we want all pupils to develop skills for life, learning and work." Head Teacher, Drymen Primary School

"I think the Technology Hub sounds really fun and good. We do have some technology in school and I like the new chromebooks but more to play and explore would be great." P6 Pupil.

"Technology is very much shaping our children's development as well as their future. It will be a real asset to have a hub with something in it to appeal to children's differing interests and age groups. We personally see such a difference to our own children's learning and happiness levels when their imaginations are captured in a fun way. By having a hub social and teamwork skills will be developed, hopefully bringing with them increased confidence. As a family we think this is particularly important for the children after the impact Covid lockdowns have had." Parent

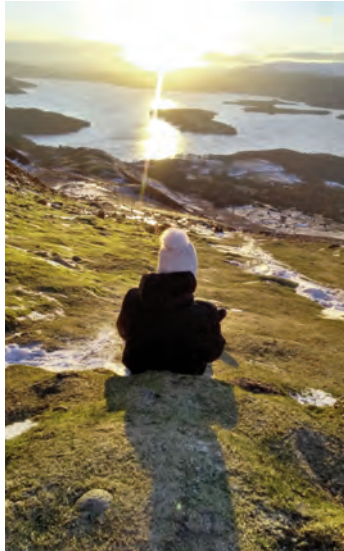
Donations

Anyone can donate and everyone who does will receive a 'Thank You' reward from the school. To donate either go directly to the website: www.rocketfund.org/drymen-primary or email the school to be sent a link on: drymenps@stirling.gov.uk

Climbing beyond Everest from home!

In order to stay physically and mentally fit during lockdown, 11-year-old Drymen schoolboy Johnny Buckley decided to climb Conic Hill (361 metres) every day for 30 days and completed this remarkable feat recently.

Mum Gail and dad Dave joined him in his challenge and were often on the hill before 7am battling through hail, rain, snow and 45mph gusts, as well as some blue skies and sunshine, to be home in time for school Zoom lessons and work commitments. Johnny had weekly Zoom meetings with his teacher and school friends, giving them updates on the challenge and getting some super-charged encouragement and support to keep going from his teacher and classmates.



Gail got to day 21, then twisted an ankle, causing a leg fracture, but is on the mend. Johnny and Dave went on to complete the 30-day challenge having climbed the equivalent of Mount Everest on day 25.

Towards the end of the challenge friends asked if they could donate to a charity in recognition of Johnny's efforts and a Just Giving Page was set up. This is to raise funds for a lightweight titanium wheelchair which would greatly improve the quality of life of family

friend Zainab. She has been severely affected by the pandemic and lockdown restrictions as she suffers from cerebral palsy and the chair will enable her to get out and about more in her rural location Zainab.

The Just Giving Page has only been open for a few days and so far, Johnny has raised over £3000 to make a difference in their friend's life. It will remain open for another few weeks if anyone would like to make a donation. If the price of the wheelchair is reached the surplus funds will go to Mountain Rescue and local charities.

JustGiving Crowdfunding Page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/30daysonconicill>



The family agree this was the best challenge they had done, as a family, and Johnny is glad his challenge has raised awareness of Cerebral Palsy and the unequal impact this pandemic has had on disabled people. Lastly Johnny and his mum and dad would like to give a heartfelt 'thank you' for all the wonderful, gratefully received donations and the super comments left on the Just Giving Page that kept them all going on this wonderful 30-day Conic Challenge.

In climbing Conic 30 times, Johnny climbed a total of 10,830 metres which is 1,982 metres higher than Mount Everest (8,848 metres) a remarkable feat of stamina, commitment and plain craziness to make a difference to a friend's life.

Frances Lander



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Pupils on lockdown

P5/6 Home Learning

Since Nicola Sturgeon’s announcement at the end of December, most of the pupils who attend our school have been learning at home, with only children of key workers allowed in school. Our teachers post assignments, and we work from the Chromebooks that we have been given. It’s a different way of learning for everybody and although unusual, it can be fun at the same time.

All the teachers have been working very hard to provide a wide variety of learning tasks such as: reading, art, PE, religion, numeracy and a lot of health and wellbeing - we’ve even made our own family dinner after a live cooking lesson! We made vegetarian tortillas using beans, cheese, peppers, tortillas, onions, and then we cooked our dish in the oven - it tasted delicious!

Wishing you all the best,
Harris Lohead (P5) and Eilidh Owens (P6)

My School Lockdown – Alice (P6)

We’ve been focussing on the Highland Clearances and we have been reading the ‘Desperate Journey’ which includes real places and a few real people. We do a lot of this work live on Google Meet which we have three times a week but if you can’t

connect you can always find a helpful PowerPoint that summarises the lesson.

In maths my year is learning about different multiplication strategies (Two digit by three digits or one digit by four digits) which are explained by a video of a lesson the teacher sends in. We can’t answer questions like in a usual class but it’s extremely effective considering lockdown. We continued with the reading we were doing in class though now instead of doing with small groups we have to do it on our own which makes it less enjoyable. *(I’m sure some parents will be looking for the multiplication strategy video. Ed).*

On the other hand, there are a few activities that we couldn’t do in school, for instance I particularly enjoyed making ‘Ode to Joy’ using various glasses with different amounts of water in each one. Everyone shared the various ways they made songs using Google classroom which lightens the mood. The school also supplied us with Chromebooks to do our work on. I’m using my Chromebook to write this!

Personally, I can’t wait until everyone is vaccinated so we can hopefully return to our normal life which is much better than the ‘New Normal’.

CARBETH DRIVE THRU

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FRIDAY - SATURDAY | 7AM - 9PM

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New Drive Thru

St Mocha Carbeth Drive Thru is now open! The areas first drive thru speciality coffee shop. Open 7 days a week, from 7am-6pm serving Loch Lomond Coffee along with great food, snacks and ice-cream.

Did someone say pizza?!

We have been working hard on our tasty menu for Pizza Saint, our brand new Pizza Drive Thru that will be open every Friday & Saturday between 6pm-9pm. Head to our Instagram for a sneak peek at the menu!

Loch Lomond Coffee Co

Enjoy our own roasted Loch Lomond Coffee from the comfort of your home. Coffee beans can be ground to your needs and we also have a great selection of gifts that are perfect for coffee lovers!



Covid-19 Support Group

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the community has come together to offer support to our most vulnerable residents. It has been a very difficult and challenging year for all of us and we are so proud of the resilience amongst the villages. To date, we have made over 1000 deliveries of food and essentials across the local area and have donated over 70 kindness parcels to families in need. All foodbank donations go to local families living within the Drymen, Croftamie & Buchanan boundary.

To make sure we are reaching everyone who needs support, we have set up an outdoor food store (kindly donated by the village hall) which is located at the top of the ramp to the left of the Village Hall. This will be left unlocked for people to leave surplus fresh food (near its sell-by or use-by date or that would otherwise be thrown out), with long-life food on the top two shelves and plastic boxes (with lids) on the floor for fresh food e.g., fruit and vegetables, and will allow people to come and help themselves to food and essentials, whilst remaining anonymous. We ask that you post information on the **Covid-19 Supporting the Vulnerable in Drymen** Facebook page to let everyone know that there is fresh food in the store - we will replenish the shelves every couple of days. *Keep an eye on the support group Facebook page Covid-19 Supporting the Vulnerable in Drymen for more information on support and latest foodbank donations drop off information.*

The Support Group continues to deliver shopping to your door, provide emotional support and deliver kindness parcels of food and essentials. We are very grateful to our fantastic volunteers, all willing to help with different jobs from deliveries, phone calls, accounts, admin and much more! It is heart-warming to see the community pulling together.

We also accept food & toiletry donations. You can leave non-perishable foodbank donations at the But & Ben in Croftamie, at Spar or the Village Hall (keep an eye out for advertised times on Facebook, it contains all the latest information).

To ensure the kindness parcels are nutritious we buy fresh food to supplement them, so donations via the GoFundMe page are

very welcome at <https://gofund.me/a5fe928a>. Fraser Robb of Drymen Community Council receives these donations monthly and releases the cash to the Support Group. The Support Group members are Laura Gordon, Dawn Conner, Amanda MacLeod, Louise Macfarlane and Amanda Reid. We have a website: www.drymensupport.co.uk but for the most current information please see our Facebook page: **Covid-19 Supporting the Vulnerable in Drymen.**



If you need any help, would like to talk to someone or in need of a kindness parcel please call or text Amanda Reid on 07811 633968. If you wish to donate and cannot use the GoFundMe link please contact Louise Macfarlane – 07791 399542 and one of our volunteers will call you so we can arrange a doorstep collection. Calls to both Amanda and Louise are kept in complete confidence.

**Thank you for your support and stay safe -
Amanda Reid & Louise Macfarlane**

The following are testimonials from people who receive kindness food parcels from the Support Group:

"I am a self-employed man and have always managed for myself but COVID has hit my business hard. I found it difficult asking for help but I just could not afford to buy shopping after paying my household and business bills. My friend asked the group to help me with kindness packs, I was embarrassed but now I am so grateful. Thanks so much to all involved and thank you Amanda for being so confidential, it wasn't easy to admit I needed help."

"When I first heard about the kindness parcels, I was hesitant to accept help despite needing it but I can only say, that the whole experience has been one of overwhelming genuine kindness and support and always carried out in complete confidence. I now have no idea what I was so worried about. The community support group has been an outstretched hand in uncertain times."



Shop Local, Shop Social, Shop Green





ZERO-WASTE FOOD

BYOB HOUSEHOLD REFILLS
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The Drymen Village Hub, 15 Main Street | Open 7 Days
(Formerly Drymen Village Shop)

News from Drymen Church

Church services

During the latest “lock-down” the production team behind our online church services has not only kept the local church family in touch but reached out much further. One response has been received from a lady in Texas and we have reports of listeners in South Africa and more locally here in Scotland. They have listened through <https://drymenchurch.org/sermons/> and you are invited to link into these services with us each Sunday morning. The website will also give information about our return to Sunday morning services whenever we can resume these. It would be great if we could return to worship in the Church by Easter. Up-to-date information about arrangements for Easter services will be posted on the website in March.

Rev. Alex Macpherson's retirement

The congregation have been aware for some time that our Minister was due to retire, but we received the news that he would be leaving at the end of June with great regret. He came in 1997 to serve as Minister for the linked charges of Drymen and Buchanan, with his wife, Ruth and their young family, Andrew, David, Sarah and John. Their family have grown up and flown the nest, and now we must prepare to say our farewells to Alex and Ruth, and begin the very difficult task of seeking Alex's replacement

250th Anniversary

Later this year we hope to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the present Church building, and this requires a brief explanation! The date 1771 above the Church door marks the date when the congregation was granted permission by



Presbytery to replace the previous building with a new Church, although the construction was not completed until the following year. Drymen was a centre of Christian worship, possibly from the 11th Century, and there is evidence in the graveyard of ancient graves, some with inscriptions no longer legible.

Start-up Stirling Food Bank

Foodbank collections are quarterly, and we have continued our regular support throughout the pandemic. Hopefully, donations can be made at Church on Sundays 6th and 13th June but otherwise at Colin O'Brien's home, 20 Clairinch Way, on Monday and Tuesday 7th and 8th June and the following week on 14th and 15th.

2020, what a year!

The way we go about our daily lives changed and the way we go about providing Guiding activities has also had to adapt.

However, something that hasn't changed is the programme that Guiding is delivering for young people. The key point of shaping girls for their future still applies and we are striving to do this, by providing activities that encourage the girls to try new things that are broken down into 6 themes.

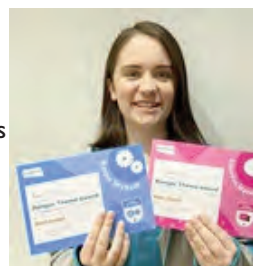
The themes are: Know myself, Be well, Take action, Skills for my future, Have adventure and Express myself. You can find out more by visiting the Girlguiding website.

The leaders for Drymen and Buchanan Guiding units are currently providing the Guiding programme using challenges and activities on our closed Facebook groups for the younger members and Zoom calls

with our older members. By doing this the young members can continue their Guiding journey, have fun along with their Guiding friends and continue to earn badges. Lots of our young members have gone on to achieve milestone awards, working their way to that big prize at the end, the Gold Award! We would like to encourage our enthusiastic members to keep up the good work.

As soon as we can meet face to face the Guiding programme will be moved to outside venues once again, which always adds to the fun and laughter and helps burn off some energy in the fresh air. Our regular meeting place is in Drymen Church Hall and we are hoping to return there for the commencement of the new Guiding year in the Autumn.

If you have a child/young person who would like to be a part of the Guiding



journey, please feel free to contact: Rebekah Merrick (Drymen membership leader) on 07789634433 or at beccaemm@googlemail.com

Rainbows are aged 5-7yrs, Brownies are aged 7-10yrs, Guides are aged 10-14yrs and Rangers are aged 14-18yrs.

1st Buchanan Rainbows, 1st Drymen Brownies, 1st Drymen Guides and 1st Endrick Rangers



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Village Hall update

Hello everyone, we hope that you are all staying safe and well. After our report in the last Drymen Reporter, the Hall Committee really didn't think we would still be dealing with the pandemic six months down the line and keeping the hall closed to the general public.

We definitely miss the activity in the hall but before we know it the restrictions will have eased, and we can bring the hall back to life.

Whilst the hall has not had its usual regular users through the door it is home to the Drymen Covid Support Team (to coordinate shopping deliveries) and home to the Foodbank. A new outdoor storage area is being installed for the Foodbank to allow access, at any time, by those in need and for donations to be dropped off.

Inside the hall, we are working on keeping the hall up to date. We have been very lucky to receive grant funding from The National Lottery and Stirling Council, which we are using for general running costs like insurance and heating; to help solve the storage issues we have and for general housekeeping. We would like to say thank you to W&A Scott Ltd who are helping us with this project.



We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Drymen Art Club who did a wonderful job to brighten up the windows of the Village Hall and allow us to take part in the Advent Windows event organised by the Drymen Community Trust. We had lots of great feedback and, fingers crossed, we will be able to display another stunning set of windows in December 2021.

The 2020 Village Hall AGM will be held on Sunday 21st March 2021 at 7pm and, for the first time, will be held online rather

than in person - fingers crossed this will go/went smoothly. The committee is very small, just three members, and we would really love it if anyone would like to join us to help with ideas going forward plus the maintenance/improvement of the hall. This doesn't mean we are looking for people to get their hands dirty (though we won't stop you if it appeals!) but just to help co-ordinate work on the hall. If this of interest to you then please contact Jackie on 01360 660919 or drymenvillagehall@mail.com

Until we can see you all again please take care and stay safe.

Kind regards from the
Drymen Village Hall Committee

Drymen Community Council

It is now almost spring, and, after a challenging year, there is the promise of more positive times to come. To help provide hope we have included in this copy of the Drymen Reporter a packet of seeds for every household that you can pop directly in your garden, in a pot or use to participate in the Village in Bloom window box competition. We would love to receive photos of what has been grown to share with others and we will, hopefully, advise how in the next issue of the Drymen Reporter.

We continue to be heartened by how much the local community has pulled together to help each other, particularly, the 'Covid-19 Supporting the Vulnerable in Drymen, Croftamie and Buchanan' Group which continues to provide support to ensure residents' needs are addressed. The Community Council continues to support the group in obtaining grant funding, approx. £4,000 to date, for the various support initiatives they are providing.

We, the Community Council, are there both as a collective and as individuals, to support you and local initiatives. We can be contacted either by email on

drymencommunitycouncil@gmail.com or on our Drymen Community Council Facebook Page and affiliated Community Connections Facebook Page. Additionally, you are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.



Youth Café

For many years, we have given a small Christmas gift to people in the local villages - including their supporters, the sick and the elderly known to the Café.

This year the handmade cards were created by individuals in their homes and the Committee decided to run a competition for the young people to design a Face mask. The winning entries were - Harry, who designed a map of Drymen landmarks and Grace, who designed a flower with the words Stay Safe included.



The masks were printed by local company 'The Unique Company' and funded by a grant from Stirling Council's Community Grants Scheme – we are very grateful to both.

The masks were safely delivered in December by the young people and their parents and the Café has had some lovely cards saying, "Thank you for your kindness", "Thank you for the very thoughtful gift of the masks," and "As this is the first year that we have been



unable to get out and about, we particularly appreciate your support and thoughts".

Some extra masks are available for sale from The Village Hub priced at £5.

The Café continues to find new ways of meeting and engaging their members, with a recent online Kahoot quiz being a big hit. We have received fantastic support from Youth Scotland with funding, COVID-19 guidelines and activity ideas.

The members and Committee are looking forward to the time when we can meet again on Friday evenings in the Village Hall.



Probus Club

The Probus Club of Lomond has of course been unable to meet since the first March 2020 meeting with all later meetings having to be cancelled. Once it became clear that none of the planned full programme of talks for 2020/21 could take place arrangements were made to hold most of them on Zoom.

Up to the end of February 8 such meetings have been held with somewhere between 40 to 45 members attending on screen. Topics have been wide ranging covering subjects such as The Bank of England, the DeLorean car company and forensic pathology. Thanks to deft handling by the Chairman and his Zoom team, members have been able to make contributions and raise questions in the on-screen discussion sessions following the talks.

Plans for the 2021/22 talks are well in hand and we are very hopeful that we will be able to meet once again in the Village Hall.

If you would like further information about Probus please contact the Secretary John Carruthers on 01360 660673.