



Recovery: A Collective Effort

The Covid 19 pandemic has devastated families, communities and indeed countries, and in many cases, continues to do so! Nevertheless, there is light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine. However, even with this glimmer of hope, in this issue, the bigger picture talks about the inequality which this virus has further highlighted worldwide, and how, as always, the poorest suffer the most.

The pandemic has also resulted in the closure of the Drumchapel Community Centre which has brought sadness and anger to many, even more so when the community was not consulted.

However, the people of Drumchapel are fighting back as can be seen in the stories of three inspirational women that we present here. The Women Matter group is starting to pick up again and the Community Council tirelessly continues to speak up for the people of Drumchapel.

The campaign "Keep Drumchapel Tidy" is an example

of how local people care for their place and the Drumchapel Asian Forum continues to support asylum seekers and refugees during these difficult times of covid 19 restrictions. As a community, we continue to challenge any form of discrimination and are now promoting the "We Journey Together" workshops and the EID celebration.

There is not enough space, even in this special edition, to tell the many stories of resilience, care, and solidarity that numerous organisations and individual residents in Drumchapel have shown, and continue to show, in this ongoing struggle of recovery from the pandemic.

Thriving Places embraces all these initiatives of resilience, care and solidarity and believes that, even during this time of great adversity, the strength of the community will prevail. The recovery will be the result of our coming together in a collective effort to make Drumchapel, and indeed the world, a more just, equal, and happier place.





The Bigger Picture: The Virus of Inequality



We have all witnessed how several different vaccines have been produced, in record time, to tackle covid19. While recognising that this is a tremendous scientific achievement, due to the advance in technology and medical knowledge, the underlying issue of inequality has put a damper on this achievement.

Recent research shows that 16 per cent of the world's population has secured 60 percent of the leading vaccines, enough to vaccinate their populations three times over. Most poorer countries will only vaccinate 1 in every 10 people in 2021, and it could possibly be only by 2024 that the world will have achieved widespread vaccination. The World Health Organisation Director said, "the world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure, and the price will be paid with lives and livelihoods of the world's poorest countries".

The UK is one of the richest countries in the world and is now talking about "booster" doses for this winter, while billions of poor people, worldwide, will still not have received their first dose by then. What is needed is more solidarity, care and sharing of resources. If we continue just taking care of ourselves in the rich countries, it is pointless, because as we know, no-one is safe until everyone is safe!

During the pandemic, big pharmaceutical companies have made millions producing the vaccine, while Amazon has almost produced the first trillionaire in history! In contrast, the uncertainty of having work, once the virus is under control, still looms high over many people. Workers on zero-hour contracts or 80% furloughed salaries, exploited Deliveroo workers, young people leaving school, college, or university and those whose jobs have disappeared due to businesses closing, all face a difficult and uncertain time ahead.

Covid 19 has brought to light many aspects of injustice and inequality, very real in the lives of many people, mainly the poorest, both in Scotland and around the world. However, in Drumchapel, several organisations and individual people are engaged in activities of solidarity and care to help the community through these difficult times. If we have learned anything from this pandemic, it is that we need to continue in our struggle to challenge inequality and injustice, in any shape or form, wherever we are, while continuing to transform our community into a more equal and caring place to live and work.

It is a mammoth task, but we must continue to believe that another world is possible and depends, not only, but also, on our contribution, which starts from where we are and with what we do every day, both individually and as a community.

Drumchapel Community Council

Drumchapel Community Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Thriving Places team for the great work undertaken since the pandemic started last year. Along with numerous other groups and individuals who have also stood up to the plate, it once again confirms that Drumchapel is a strong, kind, and caring community. There is no denying we do have our problems; the horrible amount of fly-tipping, potholes, vandalism, anti-social behaviour, road safety, licensing, planning and many other issues. However, the Community Council is up for the challenge to tackle these issues, acting as a voice for the people of Drumchapel, because we care, and that is why we foster community spirit.

We are the 4th layer of democracy after MPs MSPs and city councillors who all mainly represent their political parties, first and foremost. Community Councils are non-party political and are made up of residents whose interests are totally community based. Every October we have an Annual General Meeting (AGM) where we give an annual report and elect office bearers. The total membership is 15 but currently stands at 13, so we hope to occupy the 2 unfilled positions soon. We also hope to meet face to face around the table as soon as restrictions on meeting indoors start to lift. It has been difficult for all our members to participate in zoom meetings as not everyone has broadband or more to the point can afford it. However, we have managed to engage in some issues which are:

School Car Free Zone.

St. Clare's Primary School and Family Learning Centre as well as Camstradden Primary and Chesters Nursery have agreed in principle to support the introduction of a car free zone as part of Glasgow's school streets programme. This will begin in August when schools return after the summer break. We foresee this to be very controversial as we are aware there has been a lack of consultation with parents, so we urge you to contact and provide comments to Road Safety@glasgow.gov.uk or Collett Carroll at collett.carroll@glasgow.gov.uk.

The Range

As you will probably be aware by now work is underway to build the Range Superstore on the outskirts of Drumchapel.

Recently a planning application has come in for a Garden Centre on the same site and as we understand there will also be some smaller units that will complete the site. With the potential for over 100 jobs, we will liaise with the local job centre to prioritise interviews for local people.

Christmas tree/ Lights

For the past couple of years Drumchapel Community has been void of a Christmas tree and lights so we aim to rectify the situation this year.

We have secured funds and identified the big tree in the middle of our local park as a perfect solution to the problem of locating a hired tree. We have asked the Council about the possibility of connecting it up to an electric source to enable the lights to be switched on and are waiting for the reply. No matter what there will be festive cheer this year!



Covid memorial

The Community Council was awarded a grant recently to help us pay for a memorial bench and tree to commemorate local folk who have sadly passed away because of Covid 19. These will be installed in the local park and we hope it will be some comfort for families and friends. No date has been set yet for this.

Andy Lynch –
Community Council
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Three Inspirational Drumchapel Women

We bring you three stories of three inspirational women in Drumchapel who, of their own initiative, continue to make recovery in the community a reality. No doubt there are many more, but in the meantime, here is a starter for three!

Roberta Hughes – “I have lived in Drumchapel all my life and been a member of the Essenside Church since I was 8 years old. I retired in 2010 and started volunteering at Friendship House, a weekly “get together” at the church for anyone in the community to attend. I really enjoy it because it creates an opportunity for asylum seekers and refugees who are new to the area to communicate and integrate with local people and organisations of Drumchapel and access any support that they may need. Throughout lockdown I collected and delivered food parcels from the Drumchapel Foodbank to families who had no way of getting to and from the foodbank for various reasons. Over the winter, I collected donations from the church members to help local charities. At Christmas, we managed to give out over 80 gifts to Men Matter, Women Matter, Bairn Necessities and all the children who attend Friendship House. This was only made possible by our church members. We supported a new group for mothers and babies from asylum seeking backgrounds. I really enjoy organising and working alongside the church members and it is a real team effort because without them none of this great work would happen and I honestly couldn’t do it without them.”



Tanith Diggory – “I have lived in Drumchapel for over 10 years now and one of my favourite things to do here is walk through the lovely green places it has to offer, like the Bluebell Woods and Garscadden Way. Litter has always been a problem here and over lockdown it has only become worse. I decided to do some litter picks and the response I received from residents was so encouraging! I also contacted local organisations in the area such as, Thriving Places Drumchapel, G15 Youth Project, Children Neighbourhoods Scotland, GHA and Drumchapel Community Council. On the back of this we formed the group “Keep Drumchapel Tidy”. It is extremely important for me to set a good example for my 3 children who have grown up in Drumchapel and hopefully motivate other residents to go out and do more litter picks and become involved in looking after their area. Together we can Keep Drumchapel Tidy!”



Abbie Johnston – “I am a volunteer at G15 Youth Project and a member of the management committee. This means I help to make all the big decisions in the project, for example, how the money is spent and come up with new ideas to continue to help young people. I am involved

with lots of activities such as bushcraft, as pictured, and during that activity I showed other members how to light a fire safely as well as doing a talking group. I love to do crafts and teach the members art and show them how good it can make them feel. I was recently interviewed by Clyde News allowing me the opportunity to speak about the amazing work that goes on at G15 Youth Project and how it has supported the young people and local community throughout the duration of Covid-19. My role within the management committee enables me to participate in a decision-making process, consulting with other young people about what the funding is spent on like pamper bags, care packages and the takeaway scheme where all our members received essential items during lockdown. I wanted to become a volunteer because when I was growing up in Drumchapel it always lacked positive role models so I never thought I could achieve anything. However, now I am going to university, and I want to show other young people that they can achieve anything no matter how big or unachievable it may seem. I want to continue being a positive role model for young people so that I can inspire them to aim to do anything they want to do and prove to them that anything is possible.”



'Keep Drumchapel Tidy' Campaign



The "Keep Drumchapel Tidy" campaign was set up by a local resident, Tanith Diggory together with some local organisations including Thriving Places Drumchapel, G15 Youth Project, Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland, Drumchapel Community Council and GHA.

The objective was to organise a summer clean up in Drumchapel throughout the whole month of June. We encouraged every resident, group, business, housing association, school, and church in Drumchapel to take part and pledge at least 30 minutes of their time to do a litter pick around their street or premise.

Several litter picks took place around the perimeter of local primary schools and organisations involving volunteers. Numerous residents were out doing their own litter picks around the area where they live.

It is important to recognise that the issue of littering and fly tipping will not disappear overnight, and we must work collectively to try and eradicate this problem. Glasgow City Council has a duty to maintain our streets

clean, guarantee bulk uplifts and tackle fly tipping, while we, as residents, have the responsibility to keep our gardens and streets tidy.

Iain Corbett, from Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland, made a significant impact in the community by contacting all the local primary schools and delivering posters, designed by Tanith Diggory, for all the pupils to colour in. The aim of the poster was to raise the awareness of littering and to try and motivate the children to use the bins more frequently. This should have a domino effect as the children took their coloured posters home to their parents/guardians and hopefully encouraged the people that normally litter to think twice and take better care of their community. The biggest changes happen when we all work together.

You can check out the great work being carried out on the website <https://keepdrumchapeltidy.com> You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter: @keepdrumchapeltidy





No More Cuts in Our Community

G15 Youth Project is a contracted tenant of Drumchapel Community Centre, offering a vital youth information, advice, and support service to young people in Drumchapel. For the past 16 months, due to the pandemic, we have been denied access to the Community Centre. Currently the Centre is being used as a Covid test centre and recently, we were informed, and very disappointed, that the current NHS - 6 monthly rolling lease, due to expire in September, has the potential to be extended if required. When we asked if G15 and 3D Drumchapel would be allowed back into the Centre, we were told a straightforward 'no' and that the Centre will not open at all this year.



According to Glasgow Life, responsible for the Centre, Drumchapel Community Centre is not scheduled to open this year and is not on the agreed list of community facilities to reopen, due to lack of funding. It was not considered a priority and therefore not included in the 91 venues out of the 170 community facilities that re-opened.

It is incredible how, with Drumchapel's level of poverty, disadvantage, and inequality that the Drumchapel Community Centre is not deemed as a priority to be re-opened! We ask, how does this match the city's current policies and strategies?

This decision is part of an underlying wider issue about participation and democracy and needs to be raised by the whole community. The first questions that need a

response are:

- Who made the decision that Drumchapel does not merit the re-opening of their local community centre?
- Which criteria were used to identify the facilities to open as opposed to the ones not scheduled to open?
- How did Drumchapel community centre score against these criteria?
- When was the decision made?
- Has any community facility in the city been allowed to operate, out with the essential childcare and foodbank provisions, with exception to vaccine and testing centres?



While we support the principle of community owned assets, we have the feeling of being under duress to take over the responsibility of running the community centre. This seems to be the only option on the table to secure its future but there is NO budget that comes with the community asset transfer.

The continuous delay in the community centre re-opening has a significant impact on our service recovery planning. Drumchapel took a hammering at the last round of cuts with our organisation receiving a 62% cut in our funding, while the demand for our service has increased!

This community needs to tell this administration enough is enough,

NO MORE CUTS IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Joyce Bell - G15 Youth Project



Drumchapel needs and deserves better

3D Drumchapel has been a tenant in the Drumchapel Community Centre for a few years now. It is our base from where our staff work and from where we deliver all our indoor family sessions. It has been a difficult period without access to our base throughout the covid pandemic, but we understood why it had to be closed for some of this time. It is frustrating now, however, that we are still unable to have access due to it being used as an NHS testing centre. It is also unsettling that Glasgow Life will not be re-opening the building again once the NHS no longer require it for a testing centre. Without access to our base, 3D Drumchapel is currently homeless, and to move forward, we urgently need somewhere to be based to deliver our vital services to children and families in Drumchapel. There is a lack of available buildings for community activity to take place in Drumchapel and it is devastating to think that the Drumchapel Community Centre will no longer be open and available to the community. Too many buildings are closed and sitting empty rather than re-opening them for community use. It was not too long ago when we were vacated from the Open Gate building which has laid empty ever since.

DRUMCHAPEL NEEDS AND DESERVES BETTER!

Sharon Colvin - 3D Drumchapel



building strong family foundations



Drumchapel Asian Forum

Drumchapel Asian Forum Northwest Glasgow is an organisation of volunteers who have and continue to devote their time for their community. They welcome everyone with open arms, without regard to race, ethnicity, or religious background, by hosting many events each year to allow families to feel included and help them integrate within the community.

During this current difficult time, the Drumchapel Asian Forum provided support for all those who were struggling in the community. Despite the unfortunate loss of his beautiful wife Shereen, to Covid-19, Frank John continued to put together and give out homemade packages of cooked and raw food, fruit and vegetables, toiletries, and kitchen necessities to around 35 families in Drumchapel and surrounding areas.

To mark the celebration this year of Eid al-Fitr, an Islamic celebration at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the Asian Forum volunteers set out to give Eid cakes and a bag of food supplies to all families as an act of consideration towards our Muslim brothers and sisters within the community.

The Forum hopes to be able to organise and host a party for Eid al-Adha, depending on the Covid-19 updates, sometime in the coming months.



Women Matter



Women Matter in Drumchapel was first established in 2019 but, due to unforeseen circumstances, the group slowly dissolved. However, the founding members reached out for some support to re-establish a stronger more viable group. It was agreed that a consultation would take place in Drumchapel Shopping Centre and online to find out what local women would like to see in a women's group in Drumchapel. The responses yielded some strong views and opinions, most of which were, generally positive. The results demonstrated that there is a need for a women's group in Drumchapel. There was also some enthusiasm about a facility for the group and where the facility should be and what activities should be conducted there. Four themes arose from the responses which were:

- skills and training,
- days/nights out,
- general support, and
- general fitness

The findings also made suggestions that could help manage these four themes. The underlying issue that emerged from the consultation is that there must be a level of trust, encouraged and established between all the group members. To establish this level of trust it was agreed that the criteria would be discussed with the entire group, with contributions from both old and new members. Once established this level of trust, a new set of ground rules will be put in place to which all members will adhere.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the group or just want to come along, please contact women matter at: womenmatter2019@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

We Journey Together Workshops

Participants from Govan Community Project conducted a piece of Participatory Action Research, which led to a desire to improve awareness of the Asylum Seeker & Refugee experience here in Glasgow. The Project then designed a workshop named "We Journey Together" and created a short film. The film represents the journeys of 4 people going through the asylum process. "We Journey Together" is a training resource that presents people with a chance to engage in dialogue, taking account of the issues that asylum seekers and refugees face.

On the back of this, workers from Thriving Places Drumchapel and The Northwest Health Improvement Team, participated in the workshops and are now looking to deliver our own workshops within the community of Drumchapel. The training encourages workers, volunteers, and local people to challenge any discrimination that they might witness in their work environments or local communities. We aim to motivate workers to participate in the training and then inspire other people they work alongside to become involved so that more people understand that racism and discrimination is unacceptable. We are hope this will influence people's attitudes towards the minority ethnic groups in the community to make Drumchapel an even more welcoming place for people to live.

Should you wish to know more about this contact Charles on 07761 357026 or at charlesbailey1993@yahoo.co.uk





Drumchapel Children and Families Network

Drumchapel Children and families Network, previously Drumchapel Early Years Network, is looking to establish a group of local parents who want to make a difference in their community. The group will feed ideas, issues, and suggestions to the network to ensure that the work is driven by the needs of local people. The network consists of local groups and organisations from the Public and Third Sector who discuss issues and implement solutions that are suited to children and families in Drumchapel. Listening to people's views and opinions on how to tackle the issues raised, and how to make things better for those who work and live in Drumchapel, is the focus of the network. The parent group will enable us to make a difference locally, focusing on local action, identified by local people, while sharing good practice and improving communication across those who live and work in Drumchapel.

Role of the Parents Group is to:

- Identify the needs of parents and families to be prioritised for action.
- Give feedback to parents about the work of the network and opportunities to get involved.
- Provide feedback on the impact and effectiveness of the network.
- Lead some network activities, for example, conversation cafes.
- Guarantee a representative from the group on the planning group.

If you are interested in being part of this group please contact me: Phone – 07761357139,
Email – tracymckenzie2010@hotmail.co.uk
Thanks Tracy.



The Goodyear re-opens its doors



The Goodyear Sport and Social Club is recognised by its members and wider community as a valued asset within Drumchapel and surrounding areas with over 50 years' service to the local community.

The GSSC has hosted numerous events over the years that have been memorable and hold a place in so many people's hearts. The club also supports charity fundraisers for local groups and organisations in the area creating an opportunity for them to raise money for much needed causes.

The GSSC has experienced many challenges like all other pubs and clubs and Covid had a massive impact. The club looked damaged and worn out and needed repairs carried out immediately as part of the planned recovery. The recovery planning group alongside the local community rallied together, volunteering and fundraising to try and save this community landmark, there is also a Just Giving page for people who would like to donate.

The recovery plan has the following elements: securing the clubs immediate future, putting in place a strong managerial structure, which is now in place, 15 new members have been elected to action urgent maintenance and to address business by implementing a new debt management plan. Ronnie Auld, Chairperson, stated "this has been a fantastic team effort by the new management committee, staff and members support, thanks also to local elected members for supporting our efforts to save the club"

Club secretary Andy Bell said "We are delighted with the support from the community, to include both previous and new members with an amazing number of over 400 who have come forward for membership. All the local trades and club members who donated time to allow the doors to open "a massive thank you" to each and everyone of you, you know who you are! I am absolutely delighted that the GSSC can resume its services, combating the issue of isolation in the community meaning that existing and new members can get out to socialise with their friends and do what they enjoy most." Cheers!

Covid Memorial

As mentioned previously by Andy, funding has been made available to the Community Council for a covid memorial bench and tree. However, we received a request from a family who would like to share their story about a possible covid memorial.

Eileen moved to Achamore Road when she was 9 years old. She later married Billy Honeyman and moved to Monymusk Place where they raised their 6 kids, followed by 25 grandkids and 20 great grandkids! Billy sadly died in 2013, just months after they celebrated their golden wedding and Eileen moved to Harrow Court until her passing on the 14th of March 2020. Eileen was the first person in Glasgow, and the second in Scotland, to die from Covid. Due to the restrictions, we were not allowed to view mum and only 5 people could attend her funeral. This was very distressing for us as a family, as it was for many other families in the months to come during the pandemic. We approached Councillor Paul Carey about a memorial in the local park, not only for our mum, but for every family affected by Covid 19. Paul accessed some money for a tree and a bench to be put in Drumchapel Park for which we are grateful. However, we felt that the pandemic was a unique occurrence, so we hope to raise money for a more permanent fixture. It is nationally known that a yellow heart is the symbol for covid 19, and we were hoping to maybe have something like that with engraving on it and maybe a few benches around it where the families who have been affected in any way by Covid would have somewhere to go to remember their loved ones.



Should you wish to contact Eileen's family about this you can email them at agnes.honeyman@googlemail.com

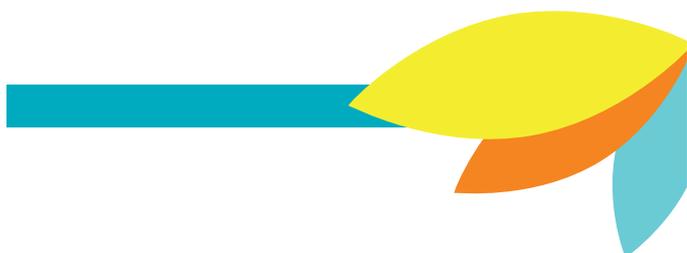
Lending a Recovering Helping Hand!

The Thriving Places team accessed Scottish Government funding through the Glasgow and West of Scotland Housing Forum to help Drumchapel in the Covid 19 recovery process. This enabled us to support families who have been experiencing financial difficulty either directly or indirectly through the pandemic. Those who met the criteria were awarded a one-off payment to assist them with the financial challenges they face daily. So far, we have supported over 150 families.

The pandemic has required of us all to become more digitally aware. It came to our attention that some people in Drumchapel did not have access to devices or internet. We contacted Housing Associations and local groups who then referred individuals and families to us, who needed this type of support. This enabled us to provide items such as, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, and data dongles to help the people of Drumchapel to be more digitally included. The distribution of these devices also helped address issues that were already prevalent in Drumchapel, the likes of poverty and isolation, worsened due to the restrictions caused by Covid 19.

We are in the process of purchasing vouchers from Aldi and Argos. The distribution of the vouchers will follow a similar method. Those who fit the criteria will be able to purchase food, essential items, and white goods from these stores.

Thriving Places continues to support a wide range of groups and initiatives in Drumchapel among which are the "Keep Drumchapel Tidy" campaign, the Friends of Drumchapel Park initiative, the Women's Matter Group, the "We Journey Together" workshops and the Community Hub process.



Glasgow and West of Scotland
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