

Care, Solidarity & Hope!



Across the world the covid19 virus continues to decimate countries, communities, and families.

In Drumchapel, as in many parts of Scotland, the impact of the virus has been felt even more by low wage earners, families with members who have additional needs, people living on their own, older people, families on benefits, all characteristics of poverty, experienced by many people in our community.

However, on the flip side, thousands of people across the globe, and indeed also in Drumchapel, have rallied round to support those who are suffering most. In this issue you will read about the resilience and creativity of organisations and people in Drumchapel, finding ways of reaching out to the most vulnerable.

There is not enough space in this edition to include all the inspiring initiatives that have taken place to help the people of Drumchapel weather this storm, for which we apologise. However, we hope this edition will give a taste of the care, solidarity and hope that exists in the hearts of many people who live and work in Drumchapel.



Drumchapel Community Council

Update from
Andy Lynch,
Chairperson

Drumchapel Community Council represents the views of local people and engages with elected local City Councillors and Council Departments. This is usually conducted by having monthly meetings but since the Coronavirus has affected us all we have had to curtail our meetings. Although this period has been hindering, we have still been active and on the ball with issues that affect us, and try to react to ongoing issues such as the complications surrounding the road closure next to the Health Centre, and security around Drumry Pensioners' Home. One of our members identified potentially more serious anti-social fly tipping with tyres being dumped around the area at Aldi. On a brighter note our Community Council has been in negotiations with DRS regarding a new build. This is a major development and we will be conducting a survey together with Thriving Places. We look forward to receiving your contribution.



Activate Update- What's happening?

Prior to lockdown, eighteen residents from Drumchapel were participating in Glasgow University's Activate course. They completed two sessions but because of the Coronavirus Pandemic it has been unable to continue. Activate is an outreach programme aimed at local community activists, volunteers and others who have engaged in community work, and is delivered on an outreach basis here in Drumchapel.

Thriving Places have discussed what the best interests are with the course leader at Glasgow University and also the participants of the course. We have agreed it is important that we put everyone's health first and made the decision for the course to be deferred to the beginning of next year. This means that the course will still go ahead but hopefully by then the environment will be much safer for it to reconvene.



G15 Youth Project-Update

The outbreak of Covid-19 immediately impacted the activities of G15 Youth Project and their working practice. G15 Youth Project consists of the project co-ordinator; Joyce Bell, two detached youth workers; Robert Macklin and Peter Divers and a voluntary management committee. The lockdown meant that they couldn't operate from their base due to the temporary closure of Drumchapel Community Centre meaning that the staff and committee of G15 Youth Project had to act fast to continue to provide a much needed service to the young people of Drumchapel during the lockdown. The team discussed the importance of keeping in contact with young people and worked on how this was going to happen and decided to develop activities that were going to keep the young people safe, connected and invigorated. There was a lot of thinking outside the box and they knew that using the social media accounts was going to have a significant affect with them moving forward. Using the online platforms enabled them to provide fun filled activities, access to learning and updating the young people with information and advice in general and in regards to the coronavirus. The staff and volunteers continued to go above and beyond for the community of Drumchapel and here is a list of some of the amazing work that proceeded during lockdown;

- A weekly online quiz for all to join in on the Drumchapel(D60) Facebook page with 340 local members taking part as well as international participation with people from Canada, USA, Spain getting involved.
- Hosted activity nights with young people using the zoom app or house party app linking in with up to 12 members on a weekly basis.
- Joyce and some of the G15 Volunteers delivered 110 care packages to their young members including toiletries.
- 115 hot Chinese meals delivered directly to families courtesy of Ho's Chinese.
- 108 pizza meal deals were delivered to young people and their families.
- 335 food vouchers were gifted to families.
- Weekly arts and crafts competitions for the young people as well as a lockdown poetry competition.
- A lottery tournament on Facebook that brought excitement to the young people as the winner would go on to receive a £30 gift voucher for somewhere of their choice.

This is just some of the things that G15 has achieved and they will continue to provide a service for the young people of Drumchapel, following the correct safety measures set in place from the Scottish Government. Now that the restrictions have eased, Peter and Rab are back out and about doing streetwork so if you want a catch up then give them a message on the G15 Youth Project Facebook page and they will be sure to meet up with you.





PC Distribution

Thrivng Places have been a referral organisation for the North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network who in turn have been working in partnership with Glasgow Clyde College. They formed a recycling project called GIFTECH to provide PC's to families throughout lockdown who live in the North West of the city. It has been extremely successful and because of the assistance of the NWGVSN we have been able to deliver PC's to ten families who are part of the asylum seeking community of Drumchapel. Not only did they receive a computer, they also gained access to the internet via a dongle, Microsoft word was installed and a webcam was provided. The families who received the PC's are extremely grateful because during the lockdown times have been tough. Some people felt isolated, unable to socialise or worried because they have been unable to attend college or English classes to improve on their communication and language skills, they also had to look at alternative ways to support their children to complete their school work. It is safe to say that access to a PC lifted a huge weight off their shoulders. Some individuals were exceptionally happy as they could video call their family members and friends back home in the country they were born.

Adam Nasreen and family received a PC. He quoted "The PC is very useful for us and helps us so much, we can search for everything that we are looking for online. I use it for online lessons, I study English, Language rules and UK Theory driving tests. I also use it for fun by playing games, watching YouTube videos and football games, we video call our families on Skype and Messenger regularly. We are happy with this reward. Now I just want to say thank for helping some people like me as a refugee or foreigner because we actually need support from the native people of this country and sometimes we don't know where to get the important things we need"



"A Drumchapel kid enjoying using the computer to complete his homework and support his learning"

Drumchapel Asian Forum, North West Glasgow



Drumchapel Asian Forum North West Glasgow provided valuable services and support to our community throughout the coronavirus lockdown. Frank, Shereen and their amazing volunteers prepared and distributed fresh cooked meals, provided fresh fruits and vegetables and other essential items to those in need throughout Drumchapel and surrounding areas.

Like many organisations Frank and Shereen worked tirelessly around the clock providing what they could during the hard and pressing times during the lockdown period. They ensured that those who needed any kind of support such as supplies, a hot meal, or help with translating for someone were catered for. I called Frank on many occasions for some assistance with families who needed that extra bit of help and with no hesitation he sorted it and continued to do so for so many families.

Sadly, during the lockdown the couple contracted covid-19 whilst delivering their valuable services. Thankfully, Frank recovered, however he has suffered the tragic loss of his beautiful wife Shereen. For those lucky enough to have known Shereen you would have noticed how devoted she was not only to Frank and her family but also to the community. Both attended and hosted many events providing amazing food and music welcoming everyone with open arms and sharing their love and faith with everyone. Shereen's smile could light up a room and she was committed to providing happiness and caring for all in the community. Shereen will be sorely missed in the community but her memory will always live on through the Asian Forum.



G15 Buses. Your local transport charity

After nearly six years of struggling, a group from Drumchapel has been awarded funding by The Area Partnership, to assist Drumchapel people get out and about, as we come out of the lockdown. The Group, now a Charity, G15 Buses, established in 2017, believes Drumchapel deserves a better level of transport provision. Originally set up with the intention of moving people – visitors and staff - between Drumchapel and The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital QEUH, after initial feedback it became apparent the community needs links to numerous other places.

This funding will help G15 Buses establish better transport links for the community. Whether it's in and around Drumchapel, the Retail Park or to The QEUH and other hospital sites. Depending on what the community requires. Hopefully, if capacity allows, we will be able to work with local organisations to improve the daily lives of Drumchapel residents by getting out and about. Shortly G15 Buses will be introducing a Demand Responsive Service, which as the name suggests will operate at the times people want to travel. It is not a General Bus Stop service, and is only accessible to registered members. The Good News is, if you live or work in G15, its free to register. If you wish to register your membership please email . If you feel need more information, G15 Buses are on: **Facebook g15buses. Twitter @g15buses**

Funding Cuts

At the time of going to press, everyone at Thriving Places is extremely concerned to learn of potential funding cuts to Drumchapel Money Advice Centre, the Caravan Project and the G15 Youth Project. These are vital services in the community and we are totally aware of the hard work and dedication of the staff members and volunteers who continuously go above and beyond to combat the social issues facing Drumchapel residents.

G15 Youth Project is a free, confidential, information and advice service for young people aged 12-25, the youth workers are there to assist with the societal struggles that young people face daily e.g. housing, drugs and alcohol misuse, sexual health and relationships, education and employability. There isn't a service in Drumchapel that covers all these foundations and it would be a major loss for the young people of Drumchapel if this service is unable to continue operating, not only for their young members just now but for the future young people of Drumchapel.

The Caravan Project provides opportunities for local families to go on a caravan holiday each year at exceptionally low costs with free travel included. This is a great service that the community of Drumchapel can access. Some of these families don't normally have the chance to have a holiday because of all the stress

they face in their lives with pressure of financial worries. It means they can make memories with their children and have the chance to let their hair down and enjoy themselves and it would be a real shame for the community if this Organisation is discontinued.

Drumchapel Money Advice Centre assist people from all backgrounds with issues including housing and child benefit, working tax and child tax credits, welfare benefits entitlement and application forms, council tax arrears, rent arrears, debt counselling and bankruptcy advice and more.

We urge you to contact your local elected members to express your concern!

bill.kidd.msp@parliament.scot
carol.monaghan.mp@parliament.uk
paul.carey@glasgow.gov.uk
elspeth.kerr@glasgow.gov.uk
anne.mctaggart@glasgow.gov.uk
malcolm.balfour@councillors.glasgow.gov.uk

We will be updating the community on the status of these decisions as soon as we can. Watch out for the next edition of the Drumchapel News before the end of the year.



3D Drumchapel

3D Drumchapel is familiar to many across Drumchapel, who have benefited from the project's support and wide range of activities for children and families. In response to the Covid pandemic and associated lockdown, 3D Drumchapel have reached out to the local community to help however they can. 3D Drumchapel's Sharon Colvin told us;

"The last 6 months have been challenging for all and 3D has continued to adapt and respond to the needs of families as much as we can. Support provided over this period has included delivering hot meals (kindly provided by 1051 GWR via St Andrew's RC Church), food parcels, food vouchers, arts & craft supplies, wellbeing packs, books and baby resources. We have also provided telephone support, daily activity ideas, online sessions including play sessions, family discos and bedtime stories, doorstep visits and outdoor play sessions. Our parents have continued to provide support to families via their Bairn Necessities project which redistributes children's clothes and equipment to local families. We are so grateful for all the support of our funders, volunteers, partners and families to enable this all to happen. We will continue to do all that we can to support all our children and families through what continues to be a challenging time for many and we are hoping to return to delivering our indoor sessions really soon."

If you want to contact 3D Drumchapel phone 0141-944-5740 or email or drop them a message on their facebook page.



building **strong family** foundations



Are the amount of supplies that 3D Drumchapel supplied and delivered throughout lockdown to local families in Drumchapel, Yoker & Knightswood.

For more information, please contact us on 0141 944 5740 or by email at info@3ddrumchapel.org.uk
(Hot meals were provided by GWR restaurant in Bearsden).

Supporting Drumchapel



For many people in Drumchapel and beyond, financial hardship has made life even more challenging through the Covid crisis. Thriving Places Drumchapel and Cernach Housing Association secured funding from the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund to provide small financial awards to residents hit hard financially by the lockdown. Housing associations, schools and local agencies made referrals to us, identifying people whose financial circumstances had changed overnight with the lockdown. This included taxi drivers, hairdressers, and other self employed workers whose income had been slashed. We supported over 100 households, and should the Scottish Government issue further funding, we will apply to continue this.

Thriving Places have also been acting as a sponsor for local children and families, making applications to the Aberlour Children's Charity for children and young people experiencing financial hardship. We will keep all the local schools and housing associations informed of any future funding, so that local people can be made aware.

Chest, Heart & Stroke, Scotland

The shop is open 11-4pm, Monday - Saturday and are happy to receive donations between 10-11am and 4-5pm, if possible, please contact the shop before you drop off any pre-loved items. Priority has been to make sure the shop is as safe as possible for the customers, volunteers and staff.

CHSS Community Room is closed due to COVID-19 guidance. They hope to open soon and will do when it is safe to do so. If you have any queries, please call or email Tracey 07802 877653; tracey.groom@chss.org.uk.

For the time being Thriving Places are not in the shop as the room is not big enough to safely social distance. However, we are still working from home and have done throughout the lockdown and tackled many issues that have affected individuals and families.

Sadly, Morven will be taking a step back from working for Thriving Places on the 30th September for a well-earned break and as much as we will miss her tremendously. She will still be around for a coffee and a gab!

We do hope to be back in the shop as soon as it is safe but until then please feel free to contact:

Ted Scanlon – 07387100182.



THRIVING PLACES

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