



Drumchapel matters

We are now all aware that carers, health workers, cleaners, bin collectors, all classified as “key” or “essential” workers, have proven to be far more important than bankers and corporate executives! Many of these “essential” workers live and work in Drumchapel and we want to express our thanks to all of them who have been, and still are, there every day for us, proving that Drumchapel matters.

In this edition we asked several local people how they felt about the lockdown and the future. Even amid the restrictions there is hope and signs of people and organisations showing they believe that Drumchapel matters. Growchapel

brings a glimmer of hope with the new garden starting to come to life. G15 and Thriving Places organised “Halloween in the Hoose” which brought many a smile, and a wee scare, to over 100 families at Halloween. Glasgow Life has opened our library and G15 buses continues with the process of setting up a local bus service. The Food bank is preparing for Christmas to care for as many people as possible and G15 and Thriving Places are planning a Christmas surprise! As ever, the Community Council is on top of local issues and we have also introduced a page on the bigger picture to look beyond the boundaries of Drumchapel.

So, Christmas is upon us and it is a time of joy, of sharing and caring, of people coming together, of celebration, all of which will be affected by the covid19 restrictions. It might not be possible to come together as we would normally at Christmas, but we need to look out for our neighbours, become more aware of people in need who live near us. We must find ways to make sure that those who are most vulnerable can still count on us. It could be a regular phone call, a wave at the window, a wee something left on the doorstep, whatever our creativity can invent.

More than ever, this Christmas, let us show that the people of Drumchapel matter!





The Bigger Picture: Everyone Matters!

The covid19 pandemic has marked the lives of everyone, globally. Whether you live in Sydney in Australia, or Rio in Brazil, or Bagdad in Iraq or Glasgow in Scotland, the covid19 has had an impact. However, some people have been more affected than others and not simply by chance. As we have seen here in Scotland, indeed in Drumchapel, people who were already struggling to make ends meet have found it even harder due to the lockdown. Reduction in family incomes, increase in mental health issues, loneliness, isolation, and general poverty, all have been highlighted even more by the lockdown.

However, worldwide, other inequalities have been further highlighted. How can 110,000 people living in a 1.4 square kilometre shanty town in Rio manage social distancing? How can millions of people on the planet who lack basic sanitation and must walk long distances to access water, wash their hands regularly? Closer to home, how can low income workers in the informal or gig or service economies work from home? How can home-schooling work for families who can not afford digital access?

“We are all in this together” people are saying, and it is true, we are all affected, but in different ways. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General summed up the inequality highlighted by covid19 when he said: “We are all floating in the same sea, but some are in super-yachts and others are clinging to drifting debris”.

Since the lockdown began in March, Drumchapel folk and organisations have rallied round to support people who are struggling in the community. Delivering food, signposting to relevant services, helping with electricity and gas payments, supporting the children at home with their schoolwork, are just some examples of how local people really believe that Drumchapel matters. Together with many hidden gestures of solidarity and care carried out by friends, family, and neighbours, that go unnoticed, all have helped the community keep together.

Let's be infected by a global pandemic of hope and solidarity, starting from where we are in Drumchapel, so that, when we come out of this, we will have a better world with more people focused on hope and solidarity, ready and willing to engage in building a world where everyone matters!



Growchapel



Plans started being developed and progressed last year for the Growchapel project, a community growing space on the site between Halgreen Avenue and Abbotshall Avenue in Drumchapel. Due to Covid-19 the progress on the site had to be halted but the Growchapel team are still working behind the scenes to ensure the site progresses and is on track to 'break ground' at the start of 2021.

We hope the first development stages, starting with security and civil engineering works, including new footpaths, storage cabins, hard standing areas, drainage and cultivation will begin late 2020/ early 2021. As Covid restrictions change, the Growchapel team are adapting their efforts to ensure community growers are able to access the site at the earliest opportunity, where guidelines can be followed by users. This will create a space welcoming to all, where any heightened feelings of anxiety, isolation or unease hope to be reduced.

There will be a custom built polytunnel on site, accessible planters for growing and gardening plots which can be utilised. It is a space where the local community can come together to change an unused plot of grass into something much more creative and dynamic, which all ages and all backgrounds can utilise and enjoy.

If you would like to get involved or if you would like any more information on Growchapel, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the steering group on: growchapel@gmail.com

Halloween in the Hoose!



Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, G15 Youth Project was unable to carry out its popular annual "Halloween in the Hills" event. Trick 'n Treat was also complicated, within the government restrictions, so instead the organisers decided to deliver goodie bags to the children in their homes. At nighttime, it was suggested that the families should watch the group's scary video of Halloween in the Hills on You Tube while enjoying their goodie bag!

It was a collective team effort between the G15 Youth Project, Thriving Places, and Men Matter who let us use their base to prepare the bags, and Olivers for the extra £££ to add 50 more bags.

A big thanks to Joyce, Rab, Peter, Ted, Charles, Tracy, Deborah, Wee Poppy, Diane, Laura and Charlie (the chihuahua) for making this possible in these strange times of covid19. Those who delivered the goodie bags were in costume, going from door-to-door delivering to 150 households. The team faced strong winds and heavy rain, but it was worth every minute to see the excitement in the kids' faces.

This is another example of how people in Drumchapel care about the community, coming together to put a smile on the faces of our children and their families. Well done to all involved!





Covid Conversations



Question 1 : How did the lockdown from the end of March affect you?

Question 2: How do you see the future in the months/years to come?



Hi, my name is Ally and I am a student at West College Scotland studying beauty therapy and also a member of the G15 Youth Project management committee. At the beginning lockdown was okay but since then my mental health has got

worse. I felt isolated, stuck in doors, not being able to go out and see my friends and socialise properly. I had a difficult time because I lost some people who were really close to me through Covid-19. I missed visiting the G15 Youth Project and being around people but since the restrictions eased I have felt a lot better mentally specifically because I can go out and see my friends.

I think it will be similar to now but hopefully not in the education sector because I am worried that it might have an impact on my future with being unable to achieve my qualification at college. At the moment I am attending college some days as well as online classes and I don't know if it will ever be normal again.

Ally Booth, 17

I think the lockdown was good to start off with because I could spend more time with my children but as time went on it became increasingly hard, especially for my kids as they were stuck in doors. We live in a small flat and my children were running and jumping around a lot, full of energy they need to express where as normally they could do this at school. It was difficult to control their behaviour and I understand it was a difficult period for everybody not just my family.



I want to think positive and hope that next year is better for everyone but we need to wait and see, I just want for it to go back to normal.

Elizabeth Soriano

Hi my name is Tai and I am a sixth year pupil at Drumchapel high and a volunteer on the G15 Youth Project management committee. Lockdown affected me straight away because I felt trapped in the house. This is because I love being outdoors; going for walks, cycling and visiting my friends. With the schools being closed for months I feel as if I have missed out on a lot of education, I am doing okay with my classes but home schooling just isn't the same and I felt that I had to play catch up to get where I am just now. I missed seeing everyone at G15 Youth Project, especially Joyce. G15 plays a huge part in my life and I will be extremely sad if the project cannot be saved.

I think it is going to get worse if people continue not to wear masks or perform good social distancing (especially in school) there is a huge chance of another spike of coronavirus cases. If this happens I am worried if we go into another lockdown because I do not know what will happen with my up and coming exams. I am also scared in case people become too comfortable with technology and everything has to happen from home. I cannot wait until it is all over!

Tai Mcilveen, 16



"At first it was alright but now I'm finding it a bit hard and definitely struggling with it. I do not know how to do anything online and I have to physically go into shops to get groceries. I don't go out as much as I used to and miss face-to-face

interaction".

"Well...I would just love to see a bit of normality, but I can't see that happening soon, maybe this will last another year. But by then I hope to have learned how to work a computer and have one at home so I feel less trapped, although my family do help with a lot but I would like to be more independent".

Nori MacLeod

The lockdown affected me because after I received my resident documents almost immediately everything stopped and there was a hold up with the programme so I had to wait to be allocated a new home. I was stuck in my house and missed going out to meet my friends and attending the lovely meetings every Wednesday afternoon at the Friendship House cooking club in Essenside Church. The meeting is not just for cooking, it is a beautiful, friendly environment where friends never hesitate to help and give advice. I have lost out on a lot of time with trying to learn how to drive and I am still waiting as the pandemic continues. The big problem for me is that it has delayed my family coming over to join me. It is a horrible moment in my life moving in the close circle.



I think if the government and scientists don't find an effective vaccination then I think it we will be in the same point again next year with many losing out on time to fulfil their dreams.

Aymen Khalil Mohamed



"The way the lockdown affected me was that I could not see my close family who all live in Manchester. There were a few funerals I could not attend due to restricted numbers. I really missed my Church and the different activities that I would normally attend during the week. Other than that I was very lucky I could still get to shops I could phone family and friends and what helped tremendously was the lovely weather we had over those first few months, I could sit on my veranda and read my books to while away the time".

"I cannot see much of a change over the winter so it will be dreadful for the people who cannot get out and about. Normally we would go to Manchester for Christmas or my son would come up but that won't happen this year. We will just have to content ourselves and help friends and neighbours to get through the festive season with sharing what we have whether that be with food or just a little time and good cheer. Hopefully next year will be safer for all of us".

Roberta Hughes



Hi I am Gary and I live in Drumchapel with my partner and 5 year old son. I want to say thanks for this opportunity to tell my story and have my voice heard because I know It has been a hard year for

everyone, myself included. Covid-19 has impacted me and my family a lot, especially when we were in proper lockdown because I have a very active son and we were limited to what we could and couldn't do. Sometimes I could be sitting in the house for four or five days without going out and it wasn't a good feeling. I work in a kitchen and was affected by the Governments furlough scheme and not knowing what was happening in the present never mind the future in regards to my job worried me. I started doubting what I had done and can achieve and this played a massive effect on my mental health so I knew I had to do something about it. I got involved with Men Matter Scotland and luckily for me they helped me out big time with my confidence and I started getting to know myself better and now I have started volunteering keeping myself occupied for a few hours through the week.

I think if the cases aren't resolved soon then it will have a huge impact in 2021. Numerous people have already been affected with their local family run business folding because they are financially unstable and it will be a shame to see more. I think more needs to be done in regards to promoting mental health as well, for men, women and children. We all have to stand together and support each other in times like this. If you are or know men who are struggling with their mental health or want to get involved in various activities then contact Men Matter Scotland on Facebook or pop into the hub behind Oliver's bar in Drumchapel and check it out.

Gary Livingstone, 26



G15 Buses- Your local transport charity



We are glad to report that since the last edition of Drumchapel News, our membership applications have shown a large increase, however, we are still trying to boost our active membership. We know that there are a lot of people who may think they are a member. If you are not sure or if you wish to become a member please email us at g15Memberships@gmail.com and we will take care of things as soon as possible. Membership is still free to you. We cannot wait to assist Drumchapel get out and about when we come out of the lockdown.

We intend on introducing a Demand Responsive Service, which as the name suggests, will operate at the times people want to travel without applying a timetable that does not suit you. It is not a General Bus Stop service and is only accessible to registered members. Whether it is in and around Drumchapel, the Retail Park or to The QEUH and other hospital

sites, will depend 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. G15 Buses plan is to make passenger transport more community minded and would be more than pleased to work with you individually or alongside your organisation.

The benefits of having our own local transport Company are that services are managed locally. It also reduces isolation and improves social inclusion, gives better access to NHS services, improves well being and mental health and provides employment opportunities.

You can find us on Twitter @g15buses or Facebook - g15buses

Charity walk

Margaret is a local resident and as part of the International Justice Mission (IJM), completed a charity walk around Drumchapel to raise funds for the cause. She raised £188 and this took around 8 hours to complete. Margaret ensured that she walked through every street, lane and walkway and provided a large list of the places she visited. IJM fight for a world where we are all free. The funds and awareness generated mean that the support teams can meet the challenges coming from all kinds of abuse and support those in need.



Drumchapel Foodbank

Drumchapel Foodbank has worked tirelessly during the pandemic and the weekly figures are still on the rise:

- July 2020 - 803 food parcels provided
- August 2020 - 816 food parcels provided
- September 2020 - 845 food parcels provided
- October 2020 - 910 food parcels provided

The foodbank team will be working additional hours to cover the momentum leading up to Christmas.

They aim to provide fresh produce such as fruit, vegetables, eggs, yoghurts, cheese, milk, bread and cold meats as they are aware that people require fresh food and additional nutrition at this time in order to protect their mental and physical wellbeing. They wish to supply struggling households with a Family Roast Dinner that will encourage them to get together round the table and have a chat about what's going on in everyone's lives to stimulate interaction whilst at home.

The above enables the foodbank to ensure that each and every one of their clients and children can look forward to as normal a Christmas as is possible.



Drumchapel Community Council Update

Community Hub

The Community Council consisting of 14 residents is preparing questions for the survey on the Community Hub that will be conducted early next year. Our interviews hope to reach as many people and organisations as possible over January/February, so if you see us around or call at your door please spend a little time to share your thoughts on what you think a Community Hub should consist of and where you think this should be. Everyone's identity will be protected, and the findings will be presented via another newsletter and hopefully some gatherings if the Scottish Government will have loosened the restrictions by then. We need to do this the right way, as most of us can remember Drumchapel having a vast amount of community facilities and projects that often were managed by a local voluntary management committee. Waverley Neighbourhood Centre, Essinside Youth Centre, Argo Centre, Linkwood Tenants Hall, Mercat Theatre and Drumchapel Adventure Group were the heartbeat of the community and helped reduce isolation and provided social interaction. These were funded by Glasgow City Council and all have disappeared. Perhaps now it is time for us to regain some of that community action and put it into a Hub that serves all.

Jobs, Houses & Land

The Community Council has been assured that work will begin in the new year to build the RANGE Superstore on the old Goodyear site. This will create over 100 jobs in retail and we will be ensuring that our local job centre is fully involved in the recruitment of these jobs. As you will be aware unemployment is on the increase and many folks are losing their jobs leading to extremely difficult times ahead. Unfortunately, those with mortgages will struggle and could lose their homes. Housing is not a Community Council remit but we do have a say on land and would like to see the abundance of vacant land in Drumchapel put to good use. It would make sense if the UK Government gave Scottish Parliament an emergency housing budget. This could enable local housing associations to build new social housing for those to rent to not only meet their current housing list but to supply the many families who will end up with no home through no fault of their own.



Road closure update

As far back as March it was raised at our meeting that the road and pavement around the Health Centre bus stop was collapsing dangerously inwards. This led to the area being closed off and the problems being identified. Work has been in progress since then and we have been in contact with Scottish Water and the Councils Roads Department. After initially saying the work would take 6 months, we have been recently informed the road will be re-opened on April 30th, 2021.

Community Venues Update

Despite rumours to the contrary we can confirm that Glasgow Life have said that Drumchapel Swimming Pool, Community Centre, and the Donald Dewar Leisure Centre will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. There are no plans to permanently close any of these venues and I'm sure that is a great relief to folk who use these facilities. The Community Council has been in dialogue with Glasgow Life about the possibility of bringing back into use the Pavilion situated in the bowling green. This has been unused for a couple of years and has the potential to be a cracking wee community venue if a few repairs can be completed as promised and with a bit of investment it could be an asset to the community

TSB Bank Closure

As you are probably aware by now TSB/Lloyds bank in Hecla Avenue is to close next year. This will be a blow for members who do not have access to online banking, and depositing cheques etc. It also means travelling to the nearest bank, causing some inconvenience and cost. Staff have struck a bond with the locals over the years and it will be a big loss and another empty building in Drumchapel.

If you would like to contact us please call 07340259889 or email drumchapelcommunitycouncil@outlook.com

Glasgow Life Drumchapel Library

Looks forward to welcoming you back soon

- **Tuesdays 14:00 to 19:00**
- **Wed/Thurs/Fri 11:00 – 16:00**

We are working hard to make sure that your visit to the library is safe and have introduced some changes to how you use the library to ensure we follow Covid-19 guidelines. You are still able to return, browse and borrow books, book PCs, scan documents and have access to free printing with a limit of 10 black and white copies per customer per day.



Check our website for updated information regarding restrictions of service and opening schedules as they are available; <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information>

Our friendly and experienced staff team are there to welcome you, talk you through any changes and support you to get started with free membership if you are not a member already. You can also find out

all about our online library offer through our website www.glasgowlife.org.uk. Here you will be able to find out more about our e-offer and access many free services including e-books, music and much more. The Drumchapel library team will be able to help you access all of this too.

If you wish to get in touch before you arrive to find out more you can phone 0141 276 1545, Or visit our website on <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/venues/drumchapel-library>

Coming Soon – Activity Pack

For children and families, a bumper pack of games, activities, recipes and craft ideas for you all to get involved with together at home over the Christmas School Holidays.

Put together by the Glasgow Life Early Years, Children and Families Team, we aim to make these available for you FREE from the Library from mid-December. Keep an eye on The Loop Drumchapel and Thriving Places Drumchapel Facebook pages for updates on availability.



Drumchapel Library, 65, Hecla Avenue, Glasgow, G15 8LX.
Tel (0141) 276 1545

Thriving Places Halloween Competition and Upcoming Events

We would like to say a huge well done to everyone who participated in our online Halloween competition by sending in your extremely creative pumpkin designs and spooky costumes. There were three lucky winners who received a bag of Halloween treats as their prize.

On another note, Christmas is fast approaching, and the Thriving Places team will be running some festive activities as well as competitions for the community to get involved in. Stay tuned to the Thriving Places Facebook page for more information in the coming weeks.

Women Matter

“The lockdown affected the group because of the restrictions and has had some effects. We had to reduce contact between those who attended the group and use social media. This was difficult as most of the women do not have this resource and for those who do not live locally, we could not reach out and support them.”

“I think in the months ahead we will continue to be restricted as to what we can do, but the group is up and running. If the social distance guidelines continue, I think most women will struggle. Our local people are grateful that we can still run once a week for them to pop along. I hope that we can resume back to a full service of support, ranging from activities to events, and raising funds, to be able to find our own premises and expand our Women Matter support network”.



THRIVING PLACES

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**THRIVING PLACES
DRUMCHAPEL**