

Colmonell Village Newsletter March 2022

Welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of the Colmonell newsletter. It is nice to see the nights getting lighter, and hopefully we will see more good weather around the corner.



HISTORY OF COLMONELL HALL & THE SITUATION IN 2022

On Friday 11th October 1890, Colmonell Public Hall was opened to the village,

after a committee organised raising funds to build the hall at a cost of £624, with £100 being paid for the land it is built on. With no windfarm funding available in those days, money was raised through the generosity of 130 subscribers and built by local tradesmen. In the hall was a public meeting room, billiards room, and a library. 8 years later, the hall was added to with the presentation of the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee clock tower, at a cost of £246. Money was again raised by local subscribers. Trustees of the hall at the time were the landowners at Knockdolian Estate, Kirkhill and the local ministers.

The village hall has for many years been owned and run by the community, although in more recent years, repairs and maintenance have been managed by South Ayrshire Council, with the Community Association in place to manage hall lets and fundraise for internal furniture, equipment and insurance. We have been in discussion with South Ayrshire Council about updating the current lease, which dates to 1975, and ongoing running costs for the hall. The Council are keen that the

Community Association take on some of this responsibility, and as we are a charitable organisation, we have already applied for and receive water rates relief for the hall, and have agreed to apply for non domestic rates relief once the new lease is agreed too. We still need to agree the remaining terms of the lease, and South Ayrshire Council have already indicated that they do not wish to see our hall closed, but that they wish us to make some form of annual contribution towards running costs. We will keep you posted with the outcome of our discussions.

In the meantime, we would like to show our funders and partners how well supported Colmonell Community Association and our village hall is by asking you to join our 'friends of Colmonell Community Association' network. By joining this group, we will add you to our distribution list to receive regular updates about events in the community, and requests for help, whether this is helping at a stall on the Fun Day, baking for teas, helping out in the community garden, or helping put up Christmas lights. As a committee our numbers are gradually shrinking and we

would welcome any new members, however for those who cannot commit to regular meetings but would still like to be involved, we would love you to help! Please forward your contact details to lynnehurcomb@hotmail.com if you would like to be involved. The Community Association AGM will be held on **Wednesday 30th March at 7pm** in Colmonell Village Hall. This will be followed by a regular meeting which will include a presentation from Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere. All are welcome to attend so come along and see what we are all about!

PUBLIC TOILETS PROGRESS

The public toilets continue to be well used and we are pleased to have received funding which will help with their maintenance and ongoing cleaning costs. Funding has been received from the Rural Communities Ideas into Action Fund, supported by the Scottish Government and delivered by Inspiring Scotland. We have also received funding from Carrick Futures and Kilgallioch

with support from Scottish Power Renewables Mark Hill, Arecleoch and Kilgallioch Windfarms. The funding has already been used to replace the toilets roof which was leaking, and will be used to continue employment of our cleaner for a 3 year period. We will also replace the handwasher/drier units with sinks and paper towel, as the service and maintenance charges for these units are costly. We are currently looking into providing disabled access for the ladies toilet, and you will soon see donation boxes in both the gents and ladies toilets.

SKIP COLLECTION

In response to requests from residents, South Ayrshire Council have agreed to provide a skip for the village on two occasions this year. The rota for skip collection for outlying villages was full for the year, however we hope that going forward we may be able to secure the skip on a more regular basis. This year the skip will be in the village, beside the big grass on Hyslop Crescent on:

- **10th – 12th May and**
- **11th – 13th October**

There are some items which should never be placed in a skip, these are as follows:

- Tyres
- Liquids
- Oils
- Paints
- Acids/alkalis
- Batteries
- Garden chemicals
- Industrial chemicals
- Dead animals
- Asbestos
- Clinical waste e.g. needles

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. If you are unsure of any household waste that you want to deposit in a skip, please contact a member of South Ayrshire Council's waste and recycling team through 0300 123 0900 for advice. South Ayrshire Council have advised us that if hazardous materials are placed in the skip, they will be unable to continue with a skip collection for Colmonell.

RECLAIMERS NIGHT

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Reclaimers night held with the Boars Head Hotel at the end of February. Funds raised from ticket sales and the raffle helped us to clear £795, which will go towards all of our usual events throughout the year.

COLMONELL FUN WEEK

This year's Fun Week will take place during the week beginning 6th June, with the Fun Day on 11th June. If you have any ideas for activities or events as part of the Fun Week please let us know! We would also welcome any helpers on the day, or to help with the planning.

COMMUNITY MENTAL WELLBEING FUNDING...

Colmonell Community Association has been fortunate to gain Scottish Government funding for a series of initiatives for 2022-23, to help address the reality impacts of Covid, and support community health and wellbeing

recovery by undertaking four related initiatives.

1. Create an external focal project, centred on developing a large scale piece of themed willow sculpture, produced by the community working in collaboration with the well-known willow artist maker David Powell. Participants will be taught the art of willow weaving over an 8-week period. This will be delivered over 3 repeated workshops each week (Tuesday 7-9pm, Thursday 7-9pm and Saturday 2-5pm), and will take in different places including the Boars Head Hotel, Church Hall and Village Hall, as well as using outdoor spaces during the better weather. The first workshops will be on 12th, 14th and 16th April, and the programme of workshops will run until 31st May. Places are limited at each workshop, and this is why they are being repeated 3 times each week, so that you can pick a day which suits you. The cost per person will be £1 per workshop, with under 17s free. To book your space please contact Howard on 881 260.

2. Working with the recently enacted & developing community craft group, organise and conduct pottery workshops in Girvan with an established potter during weekday day times.

3. Provide additional woodworking craft opportunities in Colmonell by initiating woodturning sessions in the evenings and weekends led by a local resident Stuart Clarke.

4. Post Covid, to drive forward the redevelopment of some existing but potentially dormant social group within the community, by engaging the services of a local individual to help facilitate the renewal and expansion of such groups, using old and new technologies plus social media.

Details of the pottery and woodturning workshops will be advertised once these have been arranged. We believe these initiatives will strongly support recovery in the village and surrounding communities to enhance wellbeing and community cohesion.

...AND A JOB OPPORTUNITY

NB EXCITING IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITY..... for local resident to work on a contract self-employed basis to support strand 4 of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Funding set out above, setting up and revitalising community groups in the village. The post would be for an average of two hours per week, for 30 weeks, at £15 per hour.

Tasks involve liaising with groups in the village, helping with agreed new initiatives, assist with social media posts, record keeping and simple admin. Project will start week commencing April 4th 2022 and it is anticipated to run through to November 2022. We would welcome expressions of interest by **6pm Friday 25th March**.

To find and more and register your interest please contact:
Howard Wilkinson, CCA trustee at howard.wilkinson2@btinternet.com or call 01465 881260, or
Eileen McCutcheon at eileenmilroy@hotmail.com or call 01465 881210.

ST COLMON CHURCH & WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Sunday morning services continue every Sunday at 10am in St Colmonell Church and coffee served afterwards in the Kirk Hall.

Coffee mornings also take place on the first Wednesday of every month from 10am-12pm in the Kirk Hall and everyone is welcome to attend for the price of a donation to cover costs.

COLMONELL HALL ACTIVITIES

There are a range of activities taking place in Colmonell Village Hall each week.

Monday - Club Diamonds 2.30pm - 4pm

Table tennis 6pm – 6.30pm

Tuesday - Pilates 6.15pm - 7pm

Stinchar Valley Choir 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Wednesday - Graceful Years 1.30pm - 5pm

Thursday - Baby & toddler group 10am - 12pm

Youth group - Primary 6pm - 7.30pm

Secondary 7pm - 9pm

Friday - Active Girvan 3pm - 5pm

We also have fitness equipment in the small buffet room which is available for use while the hall is open at a cost of £1 per session. Speak to Dawn at the hall for information on any of the groups taking place.

[N.B. Please note that the hall is currently closed until Friday 25th March as there is no staff cover, however it may reopen sooner that week, check Colmonell Facebook page for details. We wish Dawn a speedy recovery. Also, from 3rd – 7th May there will be no hall lets as the hall will be used for local elections.]

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Following on from the fliers delivered to houses in February, there will be a meeting in the hall on **Monday 28th March at 7.30pm** to discuss thoughts and ideas on how the Jubilee street parties will work in Colmonell. Everyone welcome. Please come along if you are interested in helping in any way, or contact Heather O'Hare on 881102, or Irene Conaghan if you have ideas.

EVENTS AT THE BOARS HEAD HOTEL

Monday - Darts team night 7pm during league time

Tuesday - Craft club 7.30pm every 2 weeks, next meeting 29th March

Thursday - Quiz night every week

Sunday - prize draw at 5pm

Saturday 19th March - 7pm Brave the Shave for Cancer Research, followed by karaoke. Come and support 8 local men and they shave their heads to raise awareness and funds for Cancer Research.

Sunday 3rd April Easter Egg hunt in the Boars Head garden – families welcome.

We also have a pool table, juke box, dominoes and fruit machine, and serve coffees, hot chocolate and tea for those that do not drink. Contact Paul or Helen on 881 371 for more information on events taking place.

CHRISTMAS IN COLMONELL



Christmas wouldn't be Christmas in Colmonell without our famous display of lights, and each year we are trying to improve on this. Now that we have a mains electricity connected to the gazebo on Hyslop Crescent, we were able to run mains powered lights from this which made for a much brighter display this year, as well as lighting up the gazebo. There are plans to extend the Christmas lights in the village and a

coffee afternoon will be taking place on **Saturday 2nd April 2pm – 4pm** to invite residents for their views on this.

Unfortunately Covid restrictions once again meant we were unable to have our usual carol concert in the hall, however we still held our lights switch on and poster competition which was won by Lucy McCutcheon, and she and Fun Day princess Lucy Reid switched on the Christmas lights. Santa and his sleigh also attended the event.



It was a good opportunity to pay our thanks to village piper Billy McCubbin who has retired from piping at community events after over 40 years, and with contributions from many organisations from Colmonell and surrounding areas, we were able to present him with a silver quaich and an i-Pad. He was presented with his gift by

some of his former bagpipes pupils Tania McTaggart, Kayleigh Robertson and Abbie Robertson.



CONTACT

If you would like to see anything in the next newsletter or have any comments about the information given, please contact any of the SCIO/CCA group, we will be happy to advise.

Lynne Hyslop – 881032. Eileen McCutcheon, Evelyn McCubbin, Michelle Mitchell, Mark Bradley, Howard Wilkinson, Alison Babenko.