



CLYDESIDER

OUR COMMUNITY'S POPULAR PRESS

Issue 10 Summer 2019

Free



POTENTIAL of PEOPLE, PLACE and PAST

REFLECTIONS ON POTENTIAL

the acorn
will mature
into the oak –
unless eaten by a pig

volcanoes erupting
burn villages –
but make new land

a thundercloud
is waiting
for the sun to shine.
deluge follows

behind a locked door
may be
cell
or sanctuary

all that we
could be
we are already;
searching for the key

By Craig Jameson

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Cover photo by Brian Watson	



Welcome to CLYDESIDER

'He/she/it has so much potential' – how many of us have heard or used that phrase, I wonder.

I know I have used it time and again when talking about West Dunbartonshire.

It is a place which seems to ooze with potential – its location, stunning scenery, fascinating history combined with a population who have lived through some really tough times and continue to shine in so many ways.

We have no shortage of potential and every time we publish a new issue of Clydesider we hear more stories of individuals and groups putting their potential to good use.

Our rich heritage, beautiful scenery and natural environment should be magnets to attract visitors and create a thriving local tourism industry.

The creative skills and talents used by generations of people from the Vale, Dumbarton and Clydebank to build world-class ships, sewing machines and textile processes, haven't suddenly disappeared with the loss of these industries – they just don't have many opportunities to thrive at present.

Over the past few months we held several events which involved conversations about how we harness this potential – and there has been no shortage of ideas and suggestions.

And so this issue celebrates the potential of our people, place and past, and is an opportunity to showcase how it is blooming in communities across West Dunbartonshire.

From young gardeners to fashionistas, artists and musicians tapping into their talents and encouraging others to discover their creative skills; to environmentalists and historians caring for and promoting our forgotten spaces, this issue is packed with potential.

There is also a wealth of potential that still remains untapped and may just need a hand to be realised – something we can all help with. Whether volunteering some time with a local group, stopping to pick up some litter spoiling our landscape or giving a few words of encouragement to someone going that extra mile – it all makes a difference and need not cost a penny.

And when potential is uncovered and encouraged to flourish it can have such an impact on so many lives.



**Amanda
Eleftheriades-Sherry**
Editor



RECIPES FOR LIVING

By Angela Clark

A cookbook created by people who had been homeless aims to encourage healthier eating and improve cooking skills.

The venture saw staff, residents and former service users of Blue Triangle's homeless accommodation in Clydebank work together to create a cook book packed with simple, affordable recipes.

They also made a selection of the dishes including pastas, avocado salad, soup, sweet potato casserole and caramel shortcake for family and friends to sample.

Project worker Michelle McCombe came up with the idea. She said: "When we asked service users what they wanted to cook there was a lot of confusion. Some of the residents didn't know, they ate out of kebab shops or used foodbanks and don't have a lot of cooking experience so we devised a cook book to assist."

Printed in-house the free book currently has a selection of 15 starters, mains and desserts. However they hope to continue adding to it, giving people more dishes to choose from.

Service user Lindsay Bell said: "I think it's great as it teaches you how to cook.

"If you have been homeless or you don't have a lot of money you might not have those skills. It gives you ideas and the instructions are excellent. I made the macaroni and cheese for the launch and it tasted lovely."

The organisation hopes to have the recipe book available in all of their projects so service users can take one with them when moving into their own homes.



Gil Paterson MSP

For Clydebank & Milngavie



Constituency Surgeries 2019/2020
All surgeries are held between 5pm and 6pm unless stated otherwise

September 2019			October 2019		
6th	Bearsden Community Hub	69 Drymen Rd 4pm to 5pm	4th	Bearsden Community Hub	69 Drymen Rd 4pm to 5pm
13th	Autumn Holiday		11th	Clydebank Town Hall	49 Dumbarton Rd
20th	Milngavie Town Hall	71 Station Rd	18th	Recess	
27th	Clydebank Town Hall	49 Dumbarton Rd	25th	Recess	

November 2019			February 2020		
1st	Bearsden Community Hub	69 Drymen Rd 4pm to 5pm	7th	Bearsden Community Hub	69 Drymen Road 4pm to 5pm
8th	Napier Hall	Old Kilpatrick	14th	Recess	
15th	Milngavie Town Hall	71 Station Rd	21st	Milngavie Town Hall	71 Station Road
22nd	Goldenhill Primary School	Hardgate	28th	Clydebank Town Hall	49 Dumbarton Rd
29th	St Andrews Day / Holiday				

There are no fixed surgeries during:
January - July - August - December

Personal appointments can be arranged by calling:
(0141) 952 9677

Constituency Office of Gil Paterson MSP, Suite 1-6, Titan Business Enterprise Centre, 1 Aurora Avenue, Clydebank G81

BIG MUSIC WEEKEND

A new musical extravaganza is set to liven up the streets of Balloch this summer.

The Balloch Village Festival follows in the footsteps of the popular Lomond Folk Festival.

The brains behind the weekend of musical entertainment is the Loch Lomond Folk Festival's former musical director Joe Quinn who has teamed up with Alex Brown and Jimmy Murray of Castle Studios, Dumbarton to create the event.

Most of the bars and hotels in Balloch's town centre will be hosting bands and music sessions throughout the festival weekend of August 3 and 4.

Singer Station dance group will be opening the festival at Kerbside (formerly the Backroom, Lomond Park Hotel) at 2pm with a show for all the family.

There will be folk jam sessions at various venues and a blues jam session at the Tuille Inn on the Sunday

afternoon. Most of these events are free.

Local band 'Have Mercy Las Vegas' are the featured act and will be playing at Kerbside on the Saturday evening, along with a support act. Tickets priced at £8 are available from Browntickets.com.

Many more local acts and musicians will be performing over the two days with the party finishing at The Dog House Bar on Sunday with an open mic from 6pm until 11pm.

For more information contact Joe Quinn 079400 24611

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Shore has Potential

BY ANGELA CLARK
PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRIENDS
OF DUMBARTON FORESHORE

Plastic tampon applicators, bottles, cups and cotton buds litter local shorelines. Each piece a danger to sea life and ultimately to human life.

Scientists have already identified plastic molecules in our drinking water, the air we breathe and in the fish we eat.

Local marine biologist Zoe Were is leading the fight against the plastic tide right here in her backyard with the help of an ever-growing team of volunteers.

Zoe explained: "There is no such thing as away. If you flush something down your loo it could wash back up on your local beach.

"Animals such as tiny shrimps and krills get trapped in plastic lids or

cups and suffocate. Little shrimps are not very lovable creatures. But when you start to think about the creatures which need the shrimp to survive – our harbor porpoises or grey seals - they're a bit more lovable.

"The things eating those tiny shrimp are fish and they're the food source for rare and threatened sea animals.

"Scotland has internationally important numbers of these species - if we lose our seals it makes them massively more threatened worldwide."

Zoe has been clearing plastic from shorelines for over 10 years. She set up Friends of Dumbarton Foreshore to help protect wildlife and keep the coastline healthy for



generations to come.

When the group first started it was just Zoe, her children and husband Iain picking litter and taking it away in their car.

They were struggling to get people involved until Plastic Free WD shared their Facebook page and since then the group has flourished.

They now have over 30 volunteers who come on regular litter picks alternating between foreshore at Havoc Road, Castlegreen Street and Levensgrove.

Zoe said: "We'd like to see the shore back to the good old days when people would spend their summer holidays down there with their whole family.

"People have fond memories of these shores from their youth."

The group receives massive support from the public when they are out clearing rubbish. People who use it want to see the shore thriving.

Zoe said: "The biggest thing we can do to save our shores and see them flourish once again, is to change our habits.

"We are asking people to find replacements for single use plastics such as coffee cups, shopping bags, choose vegetables that aren't

wrapped in plastic, replace shampoo bottles for bars of shampoo soap.

"Much of the rubbish on the shore is washed up by the tide and to prevent it we need a ban on single use

plastics - things you use once then throw away.

"Recycling is not solving our plastics problem. Tonnes of the toxic materials are sent abroad and end up right back on our beaches.

"Oceans and rivers don't recognise boundaries. Plastics we

throw away here can end up thousands of miles away and impact on people we've never met or animals we have never seen."

The European Parliament has already taken action and will ban a range of single use plastic products by 2021 but habits need to change.

Another area the group has started to care for is Havoc Meadow, just next to the shore.

Zoe is working alongside Havoc Park ranger Gillian Neil to organise conservation days to increase awareness of its high biodiversity.

Her new Facebook page 'Friends of Havoc Meadow' provides information on what biodiversity is and why it's so important.

Zoe added: "A question I always get



asked is why not bring in the tractors and scrape the beach? The simple answer is, it would wreck the ecosystem.

"There are 377 species of plants on the beach so scraping it would rip those out, ruin it and kill the animals living in the sand.

"There are birds nesting there, lots of insects using those plants - it's a complex ecosystem. Scraping it would be like letting a bomb off in the meadow, it would kill everything."

Zoe's love of the shore saw her and Iain tie the knot in Levensgrove Park next to Havoc Meadow.

The day before the wedding, she went down to the shore with her bridesmaid to clear the litter.

After the ceremony guests surprised the couple by secretly taking litter picker sticks to make an archway as the newly weds ran along the shore.

Zoe said: "It was a lovely surprise. I was absolutely made up by it. I feel proud we are keeping the space clean.

"It's about taking pride and claiming ownership of your own area and feeling 'this is my bit so I will look after it'. I look at this beautiful clean beach and think - we did that. I'm awesome and so are my pals, it's a high."



Top Tips on Reducing Your Plastic Use (courtesy of WWF)

1. Carry a Cup -

approx 2.5bn coffee cups are thrown away every year in the UK alone – that's seven million a day! Less than

1% can be recycled, meaning most spend up to 50 years in landfill. Lots of coffee outlets offer a discount when you use your own cup.

2. **Bring A Bottle** – plastic bottles are the most common throwaway item with lids usually ending up in seabirds' stomachs.

3. **Cut the Cutlery** – buy a spork and avoid using plastic cutlery.

4. **Say No to Straws** – they're heading for landfill for 50+ years and could end up choking birds, fish or sea creatures as well as polluting our water supply.

5. **Switch the Clingfilm** - use foil which is recyclable or beeswax wraps which are 100% natural and environmentally friendly.

6. **Time for Tea** – teabags are sealed with plastic! Every time you get rid of a teabag microplastics end up in our waterways. Try tea leaves and a strainer or plastic free tea products.

7. **Give up Gum** – chewing gum is made from plastic! Try plastic free alternatives.
8. **Glitter isn't Glam** – made from tiny plastic particles glitter is lethal for our oceans, it's eaten by seashells and fish and ends up in our foodchain. There are now plenty of biodegradable glitters.

Get Involved

- Join Zoe and the **Friends of Dumbarton Foreshore** for a litter pick – find them on Facebook: **@shorethingG82**
- Join a Meadow Conservation Day on August 21 and September 18 – visit

@FriendsofHavocMeadow or text 07909595283 to book a space. Free events but booking is essential.

- Start your plastic free retail experience at **Made Zero** - 92 Glasgow Road, Dumbarton
- Learn more about how to reduce your use of single use plastics **@PlasticFreeWD** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- Friends of Dumbarton Foreshore are looking for a wheelbarrow to move glass to recycle bins – please get in touch if you can help.

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Dalmuir Library

- 1st Saturday of the month (11am-12pm)

- 3rd Friday of the month (1pm-2pm)

Clydebank Central Library

- 2nd Wednesday of the month (5pm-6pm)

Faifley Library

- 3rd Friday of the month (2.15pm-3.15pm)

Balloch Library

- 4th Saturday of the month (11am-12pm)

Contact information

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Clydebank, G81 1BF
website: www.martindocherty.scot
Facebook: @martindochertySNP
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No surgeries on bank holidays, school holidays or library closure days.
Surgeries may be run by staff due to Martin's parliamentary commitments.

SPONSORED COMMUNITY EDITORIAL

CREATING CHANGE



A group of Alexandria residents have big plans to develop the historic St Andrew's Parish Church in Alexandria town centre.

They are forming a charity called Viresco Studios, named after the family motto on the Smollett Mausoleum in the grounds of the former church.

The 19th century building has lain empty for several years and is in a poor state of repair but this hasn't deterred the intrepid group who are applying for funding to breathe new life into the property.

Development plans are currently being led by social enterprise Lodestone Creative.

Creative Director Jain McIntyre explained: "We've lots of plans for the use of the building including turning the upper floors into artist studios and workshops, renovating the ground floor

into an event and performance space and opening a vegetarian cafe in the evenings and weekends.

"We also want to take elements of the Made Zero shop we run in Dumbarton East, alongside social enterprise Rag and Bone Projects, to the new venture as a means of supporting local makers and artists.

"We have local artists and craftspeople keen to make furniture and fittings for the interior. We now need an advisory group to help develop ideas for the building's day-to-day use and help involve the local community in the project.

"We're looking for people with a positive can-do attitude who see the potential the space offers and would love to hear from anyone interested in developing projects and events there. We're also keen to hear from local residents who have old photos of the building or information on people buried in the graveyard outside.

"To find out more join us on Tuesday 27th August from 12pm - 2pm outside the church at 215 Main Street, Alexandria; Wednesday 28th August from 6-9pm in Alexandria C.E Centre or Saturday 24th August 2019 from 12pm - 3pm outside the church."

Lodestone Creative continues to run their regular arts programme in Alexandria and in Make Space, their creative workshop in central Dumbarton.

For those wanting to work on their own sewing or craft project Make Space hosts free creative drop-ins from 5pm - 9pm on Tuesdays and 9am - 4pm on Thursdays. Materials and sewing machines are provided and there is always someone on hand with advice if needed.

Visit www.lodestonecreative.org or pop into Made Zero shop at 92 Glasgow Road, Dumbarton G82 1JP for more information.

CLYDESIDER Competitions

We have more great giveaways for you in Issue 10.

1. Poetry Competition – the theme is 'Change' – prize is a £20 gift voucher to spend with a local independent business plus an annual membership for the Clydesider Club Card.
2. Photography Competition – the theme is 'My Place' prize canvas and framed prints courtesy of Photo Ecosse (see pg 24) plus an annual membership for the Clydesider Club Card.

Usual rules for the Poetry and Photography Competitions apply:-

- One entry per person and you must live, work or be part of a West Dunbartonshire-based group to enter
- All entries must be your own work
- By entering you give Clydesider Creative Ltd permission to publish your work in our print, digital and social media outlets – this in no way infringes your copyright.

Email entries to clydesidercomp@gmail.com or send to Clydesider, 48a Erskine View, Old Kilpatrick G60 5JG by September 20 2019.

Good Luck!

Our Issue 9 Clydesider Survey Competition winner was Maureen Spratt from Dalmuir who won a £50 gift voucher to spend with a local independent business. The runners-up were Margaret Reid, Maureen McKay and Jean Quinn who each win a Clydesider Club Card.

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ART FOR ALL

WORDS & PHOTOS BY JENNY WATSON

Walking into Van Gash Art Studio/ Gallery I am instantly immersed with colour and stunning imagery. This is crowned with a cheery “hello, do you want a cuppa?” A common greeting in the west of Scotland and one I am delighted to hear on this muggy summer’s day. The warmth from the walls of the gallery is fully reflected in Sarah Jayne, the gallery owner and resident artist, herself.

Had I been a nervous art student venturing into the studio for my first lesson, I would have instantly felt at ease. As it happens, I was a nervous novice storyteller, suddenly overwhelmed with the need to absorb as much detail as possible to do the wonderful space and artist justice.

The gallery on Bank Street, Alexandria, officially opened on June 1, to a very warm welcome from the local community. Sarah Jayne had previously held her art classes from the Chest, Heart, Stroke Scotland Community

room in Dumbarton and before that in the Artizan Centre, Dumbarton. She had established a robust student register and felt she was now ready to take on a space of her own.

Finding the available space on Bank Street was serendipitous for Sarah Jayne, as she used to live close by. When her children were younger, the first shop she allowed them to venture to on their own was in the unit now home to her Gallery. There is almost a magical symmetry to Sarah Jayne and her children both finding their independence in the same space.

Having the teaching corner in the Artizan centre was another chance situation. A friend tagged Sarah Jayne in a ‘call for art teacher’ post on the Artizan Facebook page, with the encouragement she should most definitely go for it.

Sarah Jayne plucked up the courage and put herself forward. “I was still studying myself at the time, so when I was buying my materials for college, I would buy a little extra for the classes I

was running. I couldn't have done it myself otherwise."

Donations of materials and supplies were also greatly received. It took over two years for her client list to build up and some days when classes were quiet, Sarah Jayne wasn't always sure how successful a career this could be.

But she continued learning, working hard and offering what she could, "little did I know then that I was actually starting my own wee business," she laughs.

She will always be thankful to the people who provided her with spaces to run her classes, as she wouldn't have been able to offer the lessons or keep prices low without them. "I can't have 'art is for everyone' as my mantra, if I can't provide it for everyone."

In the short time Van Gash has been open, it is already having an impact on the local community.

On opening day, the studio hosted an exhibition of work created by Sarah Jayne's students. Every child who attended her classes sold a piece of their work on the day – a great boost to their confidence and self-esteem.

Now her studio is in an accessible and visible location, classes are booking up in advance. The children's two-hour class on a Saturday afternoon, is a particular favourite.



Local resident, Kathleen McConnachie, said: "My wee ones love getting creatively messy. So, letting them get artistic in a studio space is awesome. It's also an added bonus not having to clean up after."

"Plus Sarah Jayne offers a sibling discount which is a great option for parents with more than one kid."

Sarah Jayne offers classes for both children and adults. She also runs a session for pre-school children.

All materials are provided and she also gives advice to suit all budgets on where to shop to continue creating at home.

Sarah Jayne is passionate about breaking down barriers to creativity - both financial and psychological. "I want everyone to realise their potential. Art is for everyone whether you think you can draw or not."

Contact Sarah Jayne on 07429944873 or find Van Gash Studio/Gallery on Facebook for further information.

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CREATIVE CAFÉ

PHOTOS BY BRIAN WATSON

The Clydesider Creative Café put in its first appearance in Clydebank this summer.

The mix of free creative workshops, taster activities and Community Marketplace proved a hit, with approximately 100 people attending the day-long event in Clydebank Community Sport Hub.

The theme for this event was 'Potential' and all of the workshops were delivered by creative facilitators from the local community. They included Kids Stand-up Comedy, Upcycling Accessories, Group Poetry, Cyano Sun Printing, Tai Chi and Creating With Confidence.

Caroline Finn, Clydesider Creative development worker, said: "Wherever possible we employ creative facilitators from our local community, often people we have featured in the magazine. "It shows what skills exist locally plus some of them offer these activities in



the area so if you come along to the Creative Café and enjoy the workshop, you might be able to continue it somewhere in West Dunbartonshire.

"With people able to sign-up for workshops on the day most of the sessions were full and there was a real creative buzz about the sports hub, which was a great venue to use."

As well as the workshop sessions there were various drop-in activities in the Community Marketplace and musical entertainment from Gardening for Bumblebees, the Bankie Boys and members of the Clydebank Community Sports Hub committee who are still in search of a name for their band.

And Food 4 Thought kindly provided a delicious Community Kitchen on a pay-what-you-can-afford basis.

The next Creative Café will be in the Vale, provisionally in Alexandria C.E Centre, on December 7.

Before that we will be hosting a Creative Community Conference in Dalmuir C.E Centre on October 3 in partnership with Inclusive Images social enterprise as part of Challenge Poverty Week.

We will also be working with several small local community groups to host some outreach creative workshops for people who might not come along to a community event.



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BLOOMING WITH POTENTIAL



WORDS CHARLIE SHERRY, PHOTOS BY CHARLIE SHERRY AND JOHNNY DALE

If you ever have the good fortune to come across Clydebank man, Johnny Dale, the chances are he'll be confidently sharing his extensive knowledge of horticulture in one of the community gardens around West Dunbartonshire or Glasgow where he regularly volunteers.

woodland he has single-handedly planted around it.

However, this was not always the case for the green-fingered Bankie.

Johnny's early childhood memories are happy ones spent with his mother and grandparents: "I always remember lovely times with my mum and grandparents, full of laughter and singing," he reminisces.

But tragically Johnny's happy childhood was cut short following the death of his mother in 1991 when he was just seven years old.

It took Johnny a long time just to understand what had happened: "From the age of seven until I was around 10, I didn't understand what my mother dying actually meant, I thought it just meant she had just gone away and she would be back at some point."

Throughout this period, his grandmother Jean and step-grandfather Donald cared for Johnny,



Or perhaps he'll be heading to his wee Highland croft to maintain the native

taking him away on regular holidays to Donald's croft in Sutherland.

Johnny remembers: "They really took care of me, they were very loving, I looked upon Donald as my father, he took me out in his boat and all over the Highlands.

"He was really good to me, taught me so much about life, it was Donald that instilled in me my passion for nature."

Donald guided him through this difficult period often telling him his mother had 'gone to the happy hunting grounds' and adding 'she is still watching over you, she will always be with you.'

Just as the young teenager began to cope with his grief and get used to the idea that his mother was never returning, he began to get severe headaches. His optician noticed there was something not quite right with his eyes and referred him to the Eye Clinic in Glasgow.

It was there Johnny learned he had the eye condition keratoconus, which, if untreated, can lead to loss of sight.

Johnny explained: "The condition limited my vision to such an extent that everything looked like one of those mixed up modern paintings.

"This not only affected my eyesight, it tore any confidence I may have had to

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shreds, there were times I felt really low."

Johnny's eyes got progressively worse until at the age of 18 he required cornea transplants to save his sight.

A year earlier in 2001 Donald, the man Johnny thought of more as a father than a step-grandad, passed away. He left a half share of his croft and 15 acres of land to Johnny and to his other grandson Grieg, who lives in Norwich.

The law states that in order to keep a croft, the owner must either live in the croft or make use of the land, otherwise they lose it.

Even though he was still grieving the loss of his best friend and struggling with his sight, Johnny was determined to make sure the future of the croft was secure and what better way to do this than combine his passion for nature and the environment?

"I researched the possibilities for the croft and found out if I began planting a woodland made up of native trees

then that would satisfy the usage conditions to keep the croft in the family," he explained.

But first Johnny had to teach himself how to create a natural woodland.

"I read up on how to plant trees, how the different trees require different conditions. I learned some trees prefer wet ground, whilst others thrive on dry.



"Now when I'm out walking with groups, I tell them what tree is what - they love it."

To finance his woodland project, Johnny managed to source funding from the government.

Johnny is a regular visitor to his wee Highland croft. "I love to go up just to get away from it all, it's the best therapy in the world, feeling closer to nature up there in the wilderness.

"It's great to see how the native woodland is developing, it's an achievement I am very proud of."

When he is not up in his Highland hideaway, Johnny spends a lot of his time volunteering in the various community gardens around West Dunbartonshire and the west end of Glasgow, he is always keen to get

involved in any project that improves the natural environment.

"I really believe there should be community woodland and natural spaces with good facilities for all the community to have access to, in every town in Scotland. People shouldn't have to pay a fortune to do so."

Having been through so much trauma in his early years, Johnny has this message for anyone who feels things may be getting too much for them: "Bad things can happen, however, don't see that as the end. It can be the beginning of something else, it's up to you to make it something good."

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Summer 2019

FASHION FIX

BY CAROLINE FINN

Among brand named bohemian dresses and smart office blouses a group of young people are taking their first steps into the fashion industry.

The Fashion Fix shop in Alexandria's Lomond Galleries, is an exciting new social enterprise retail outlet to help young people gain practical experience which will allow them to move into the highly competitive job market.

Established by local youth charity Tulloch Trust in 2018 they initially operated from a small shop in Alexandria's Main Street but rapidly outgrew the space and moved to the much larger unit in Lomond Galleries in May. Fashion expert Lisa Carr was employed by Tulloch Trust to run the new project. With years of experience working in the fashion industry, originally as a buyer and more recently owning her own vintage store, Lisa knows it is a tough industry to break into. The practical skills the young people learn at Fashion Fix will give them a step up in the job market.

She explained: "Many other employability schemes lack the real practical skills that we teach. They might be working on something and

have to stop to serve a customer, we like to call it a 'real working experience'."

The young people complete an eight week training programme learning every aspect of running a retail fashion business. From the practicalities of running front of house to organising the stock room, they go on to learn

visual merchandising. This involves research into trend forecasting and creating mood boards of their concept for the merchandising displays.

They even use role play to learn how to deal with difficult customers and complex requests.

Lisa hopes they leave with valuable retail experience, evidence of their completed tasks and a great reference but most importantly she hopes the experience has boosted their confidence and self esteem.

"Because they are working outside their comfort zone their confidence quickly increases. It's massive for a young person's self esteem to be given the responsibility of working on the till directly with customers," she added.

Lisa described how one young person who completed their programme initially struggled with anxiety.

"Within a couple of weeks she was working on the till and helping run the Fashion Fix social media accounts, now she has gone on to college where she is thriving."

As Fashion Fix only sell new stock the young people get to experience the process of buying the clothes.

Everything in store has been chosen by them which increases both their sense of pride and responsibility in the store.

Lisa explained that forecasting what people will be wearing next season appeals to the young people as it's already a big part of their culture.

The clothes are sourced directly from high street wholesalers with Fashion Fix purchasing surplus stock from the previous season at a lower cost.

If the brand names alone are not enough to draw people in, Lisa said buying clothes destined for landfill has an added appeal for the environmentally-aware young shoppers.

Ross Ballantyne, 21, is enjoying his time working at Fashion Fix.

He said: "This training has helped me improve my customer service skills and general attitude in the workplace and I'm about to design and make a small range of clothes."

Ross and his brother Ewan will be working on some up-cycling projects with Fashion Fix to create a small collection of the shop's own label.

Using the skills they have picked up already they're desperate to design their own masterpieces using excess stock to create one-of-a-kind pieces that will be available for sale in store.

Lisa is really pleased at how the local community has supported Fashion Fix. The reasonably priced high street brands are a definite draw as is the social enterprise's ethos of supporting local young people.

"People enjoy giving back and helping something that helps young people. For many of our customers it's a conscious buy, they love our clothes, they enjoy the fact that it's not-for-profit, it's helping to support young people and it's affordable," she added.

To find out more visit www.fashionfix.org or pop into Fashion Fix, Lomond Galleries, Main Street, Alexandria G83 0UG.



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Jackie Baillie MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Dumbarton
Constituency

Monthly Surgeries

THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH



2.45pm - Alexandria Library, Gilmour St, Alexandria
4.45pm - Helensburgh Parish Church, Colquhoun St, Helensburgh
6.30pm - Constituency Office, 6 Church Street, Dumbarton

*No surgeries in July. Surgeries may be subject to change.
Please phone 01389 734214 for more information.

The costs of this publication have been met from parliamentary resources.



Jon Leino

CLYDESIDER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

BY CHARLIE SHERRY

Every time I am asked to judge Clydesider's photography competition it never ceases to amaze me what depth of talent we are lucky to have in our wee shire.

The Issue 10 competition entries are again of the very highest standard, any of the photographs entered could easily justify winning first prize, therefore I would like to congratulate all the entrants. Keep up the great work folks!

It has been almost impossible to choose a winner and two runners up, however given that is what I am tasked to do, I have chosen what I think are the three outstanding shots from all

the fantastic photographs sent in.

First prize goes to Jon Leino for his quirky shot of Dumbarton football supporters enjoying an away game in Arbroath.

I love how Jon had the presence of mind to capture a scene where almost every emotion expressed by a fan during the course of a match is on view, from elation to dejection and all that is in-between. The photograph is a very clever interpretation of the competition's theme 'Potential of people, place and past.' Again, well done Jon.

Joint runner up prize goes to Emma McKerry for her beautifully framed shot of majestic Ben Lomond.

Emma's shot is a very interesting take on the Ben. For me the intelligent composition makes this image jump out at you. Lovely shot Emma, superb work.

James Hall's remarkable shot through the ancient arch of Dumbarton's Municipal Building is our other joint

runner up. The shot has everything, clever composition, beautiful light and it encapsulates the theme of the competition. Bravo James, remarkable work.

Clydesider would like to thank Iain Wilson from Photo Ecosse in Dumbarton High Street for providing the prizes for our three winners.

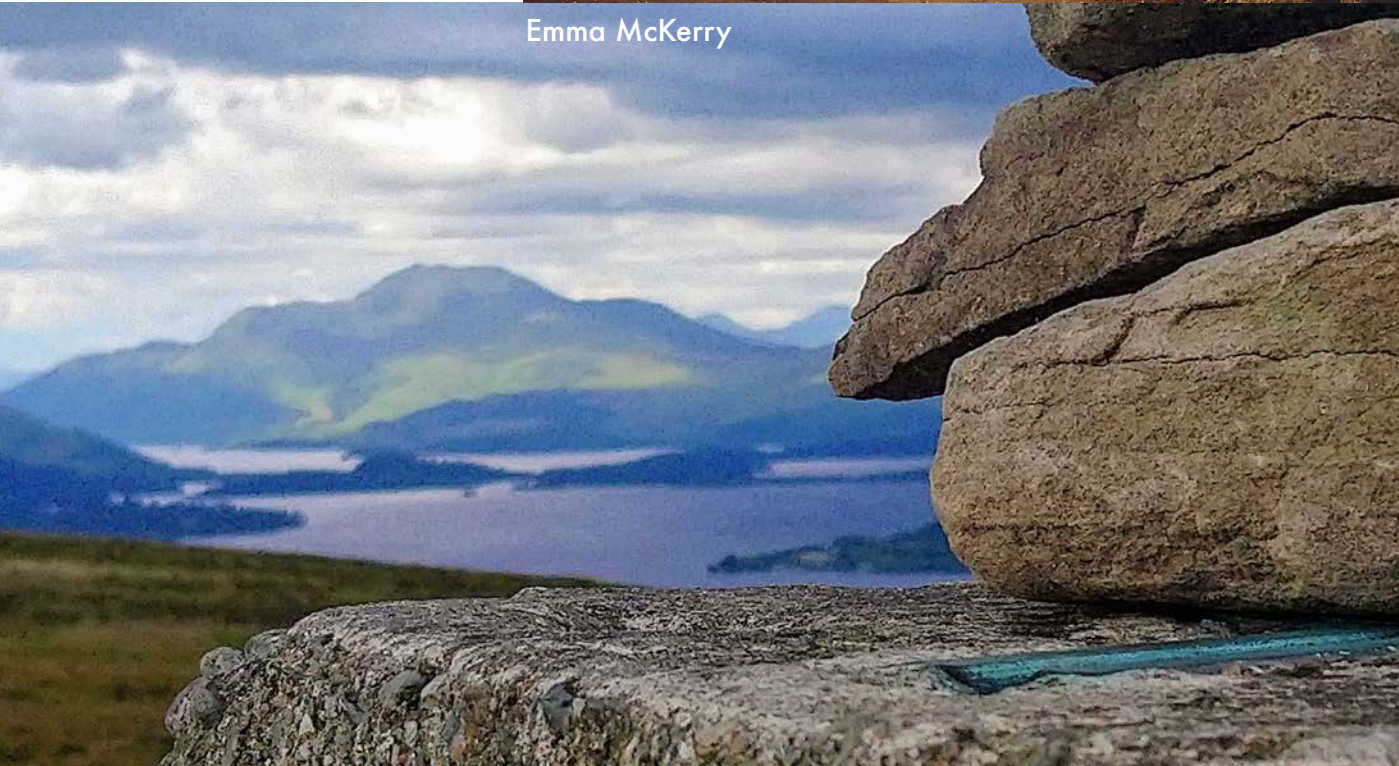
The photo competition theme for Issue 11 is 'My Place'. Entries to be emailed to clydesidercomp@gmail.com by September 20 2019.

Happy snapping folks!



James Hall

Emma McKerry





HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR HERITAGE



PHOTOS BY CLYDESIDER
VOLUNTEERS KATIE KENNEDY, BRIAN
WATSON, CHARLIE HILLAN AND
ANGELA CLARK.

WITH THANKS TO ELSPETH CROCKETT,
DAVE HARVIE, CHARLIE SHERRY,
KENNY BROPHY AND SAM GIBSON
FOR THEIR EXPERT ADVICE AND
GUIDANCE.

We live in an area with a rich local
history which has the potential to
transform our local community and
attract tourists from around the world.

The Kilpatrick Hills and Auchnacraig
Woods behind Faifley were once home
to Neolithic families who left behind
intriguing stone markings that have
fascinated archaeologists since the late
19th century.

We know the Romans and Vikings
raided and pillaged the area building
forts and strongholds along the Clyde.
And the final outpost of the Roman
Antonine Wall now lies buried under a
former bus depot in Old Kilpatrick.

Some of the big names in Scottish
history - Robert the Bruce, William
Wallace and Mary Queen of Scots – all
lived or spent time in and around
Dumbarton and the Vale, with
Dumbarton Castle playing a strategic
role in many historic disputes and
battles.

The more recent social and industrial
heritage brought thousands of skilled
labourers, engineers, designers and
craftspeople to the area who
revolutionised the shipbuilding,
glassmaking and textile industries.

Yet there is little to showcase this remarkable heritage and many local people are unaware of the important role their ancestors' had in Scotland's history.

So Clydesider decided to carry out an experiment to reveal some of our fascinating past and to hear local people's ideas on how it could be preserved and utilised for future generations.

These were our first Walkin' Talkin' events which took place at the end of May. They were an opportunity for people to take a short walking tour through some of this history, guided by a local expert, before coming together for a chat about its potential.

This feature brings together a flavour of the past with ideas for the future.

DUMBARTON – THE PAST

- **Ancient Capital** - of the Kingdom of Alclud, a Royal Burgh from 1222 to 1975.
- **Dumbarton Castle** - built around 1220 as a defence from the Vikings, the Castle has the longest recorded history of any site in Scotland. It was a place of refuge for both David II and Mary Queen of Scots and possibly a prison for William Wallace.
- **Denny Ship Model Experiment Tank Museum** – tells the story of the Denny Brothers who brought the world famous Cutty Sark to life and invented the Denny helicopter and hovercraft.

- **Robert the Bruce** - lived and died here. His remains are buried in St Serf's Chapel in Levensgrove Park.



- **Levensgrove Park** – built on land belonging to the Dixon family who owned Dumbarton Glassworks. In 1880 the town's leading shipbuilders John McMillan and Peter Denny bought the land for £20,000 and gifted it to the people of Dumbarton.

Dumbarton - The Present

- **Dumbarton Castle** - last year the Castle had 25,000 visitors and



looks set to be a destination for royal visitors in the near future.

- **Robert the Bruce** – the Lennox Herald is campaigning to have a statue to Bruce erected in the park.
- **Levensgrove Park** – a £3.7million Heritage Lottery project has included improvements to the park, training suite and the opening of the Pavilion Café.
- **Burgh Hall and Municipal Buildings** – restoration and renovation work on both buildings was recently completed and West Dunbartonshire Council's head office moved into the town centre.
- **Dumbarton Central Station** – is one of only 12 A-listed stations in Scotland. A small group of locals set up the Dumbarton Station Improvement Trust and secured funding to carry out extensive architectural surveys to identify how best to preserve and utilise the station.

- **Castle to the Crane Boat Race** – now in its 3rd year and part of the Clydebuilt Festival, it is the biggest open rowing race in Scotland with 75 boats leaving from Dumbarton Castle.

DUMBARTON – THE FUTURE

- **Parking and Access** – a problem for the whole town but particularly for visitors to Dumbarton Castle.
Suggestions:- partnership with Dumbarton Football Club for use of coach parking. Walkway between Dumbarton town centre and Castle.
- **Dumbarton Castle** – Dumbarton Castle Society is currently in discussions with Dumbarton Football Club about using the Club's lighting to floodlight the Castle at night.
- **Three Museum Town** – potential of creating a third museum in Glencairn House, the oldest

building in Dumbarton, where Robert Burns was made a Freeman of the town.

- **Conservation Area** – West Dunbartonshire Council is proposing to apply for conservation status for the town centre. This would protect many of the older buildings and help attract funding to the area.
- **The Clyde and Leven** – “both are under-utilised, there are ongoing issues over ownership of old boats and wrecks in the Leven.”



Suggestions:- water buses, tour boats along the Leven up to Loch Lomond; Dumbarton Food Festival in Levensgrove Park to tie in with the Castle to the Crane Race.

VALE OF LEVEN – THE PAST

- **William Wallace** - is believed to have taken refuge near Loch Lomond, possibly in Bonhill Parish Church.
- **Robert the Bruce** – built his

manor house, the Mains of Cardross, close to the Leven probably at Dalquhurn in Renton.

- **Textile Industry** – initially started as a summer operation in 1715, it grew to be a cornerstone of the Vale economy for nearly 250 years. In 1897 the United Turkey Red Company formed, combining six local companies. It became a world leader employing thousands in print, dye and bleach works.
- **Tobias Smollett** – writer and poet born in Dalquhurn in 1721, recognised as one of the founders of the modern novel. The Smollett monument was erected in Renton in 1774 and he is one of 16 Scottish writers commemorated on the Scott Monument in Edinburgh.
- **Football Champions** – Renton Football Club played in the inaugural Scottish Cup Tournament in 1873, winning the championship in 1885 and 1888. They also lay claim to being ‘Champions of the World’ after beating FA Cup holders West Bromwich Albion in 1888.





VALE OF LEVEN - THE PRESENT

- **Neglected** – “our social and industrial history has been neglected and forgotten. We have to start doing this ourselves.”
- **St Andrew’s Church, Alexandria** – there are plans to renovate the building and turn it into a multi-use community space.
- **Creativity** – several local initiatives are promoting the area’s creative talents including Loch Lomond Craft Centre in Alexandria; monthly ‘Open Mic’ poetry nights in Balloch Hotel and the launch of the Balloch Big Music weekend in August.
- **‘Flamingoland’** – controversial plans for a £30million resort beside Loch Lomond have divided the area. Some see it as a much-needed investment bringing jobs



and tourists to the area, others believe it will ruin natural scenery, restrict local access and cause traffic chaos.

VALE OF LEVEN - THE FUTURE

- **Tourist Traffic** – “Last year 12 million cars went past the area going up north. If we could get just a fraction of them to come into the towns it would have a huge impact on the local economy.”
- **Local Heritage Centre** – “Would be a great legacy to our forefathers to remember what they created and put pride back in the kids who don’t know what their grandparents, great grandparents did.”
- **Heritage Walks** – local historians Dave Harvie and Dave Carson created five heritage trails including the River Leven trail which could be run on a regular

basis for locals, groups and tourists.

- **Creative Festivals** – the Loch Lomond Folk Festival was a popular attraction bringing people to the area, potential for other events such as a local Literary Festival.
- **Balloch Castle** – is boarded up due to a dispute over ownership between Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire Councils. "People come here looking for Balloch Castle and I'm embarrassed to point them in the direction of that building. There is so much could be done with it."

CLYDEBANK – THE PAST

- **Cochno Stone** – buried in Faifley's Auchnacraig Woods this 100m² Bronze Age stone has some of the finest cup and ring markings in the country.
- **Antonine Wall** – ends in Old Kilpatrick. It was the most north-westerly outpost of the Roman Empire, once marked by a fort at the mouth of the Clyde.
- **Cotton Mills** – the first signs of industrialisation in the area were several cotton mills in Duntocher and Faifley in the 1860s.
- **Shipbuilding** – Brothers J & G Thomson started construction on the first shipyard in Clydebank in 1871 which became John Brown's in 1897 and UCS in 1968. Over the years workers would build over 20 liners, plus paddle steamers and sea-going vessels, including the world famous QE2

and Queen Mary. The yards employed thousands of people and the ships were known worldwide for their quality.

- **Singers Sewing Factory** – built in 1881 it quickly became the largest factory in Europe. At its peak in 1913, 14,000 workers were employed in the factory manufacturing over 1.3 million machines.
- **Clydebank Blitz** – the town was a target for enemy bombs during WWII. On March 13 and 14 1941 the Luftwaffe decimated much of the town.

CLYDEBANK – THE PRESENT

- **'Faifley Rocks'** – a major initiative to use Faifley's archaeological past to regenerate the area (see page 39). There are also plans to develop a walking trail with signage, making the rock art more accessible.
- **Titan Crane** – the Category A-listed 150ft cantilever structure was the first in the world to be electrically powered. A £3.75m restoration project saw the structure repaired, painted, and a lift and floodlights installed before opening to the public in 2007. It has since won several engineering awards but is currently closed while work is underway on Queens Quay.
- **Clydebank Museum** – "Clydebank Museum was meant to be revamped as part of the town hall regeneration but it's more of an art gallery with a few

Singer sewing machines – we still don't have a proper museum."

- **Memorials** – Solidarity Plaza recognises the Polish sailors aboard ORP Piorun which opened fire on the Luftwaffe during the Clydebank Blitz. Further along Dumbarton Road the mirrored wall plaques recognise the human cost of the town's shipbuilding heritage. Commissioned by Clydebank Asbestos Group, each wall is engraved with names of people who died from asbestos-related diseases. "My Uncle James has his name on there – he had so much potential but the shipyards took him."



CLYDEBANK – THE FUTURE

- **Singer Sewing Machines** – "West Dunbartonshire Council has the biggest collection of Singer sewing machines in the world but most of it's in storage – we should have a museum that shows this heritage."
- **Shipbuilding** – "When the kids know they are connected to this past it gives them a real sense of pride. A lot of them don't know anything about the ships or that they were built here in Clydebank."
- "Why is the Britannia or the QE2 not sitting outside? There should be something out there on the Clyde!"
- **The Clyde** – "Surprised there are not more water and boat services up the river. There was talk of a waterbus going to Glasgow but don't think it ever happened."
- **Antonine Wall** – West Dunbartonshire is one of five Scottish local authorities to receive funding to commemorate the wall. To mark this Action Old Kilpatrick are helping design and plant a Roman Arboretum.



CHAMPION GARDENER

BY JENNY WATSON

Faced with barriers and adversity in life, we sometimes choose the option of hiding and avoiding.

Not Cameron Russell.

A few years ago, he struggled with starting a new school and it impacted his mental wellbeing. Until a teacher recognised Cameron's qualities and encouraged him to join the school gardening club.

Dubious at first, it very quickly became a passion for the 15-year-old. "I find it fun and quite relaxing and it helped me when I was struggling," he explained.

Not only did he have a natural talent and enthusiasm for working in the school garden, but he also made it an attractive and interesting activity for his peers to join in. They put in a lot of time and hard work as the garden was in dire straits and needed extreme TLC.

Thanks to Cameron's networking skills, the school received £2,500 funding for a polytunnel and the young gardener helped source and purchase it, then worked with the gardening group to build it in just three days.

The garden now also features established paths, raised beds, vegetable plots, an orchard, a working water system, pond, and even a pizza oven!

In 2018 Cameron was nominated by former teacher, Joanne Harvey, for the Royal Horticulture Society 'Young Gardener of the Year' award.

And at the finalists ceremony in the RHS gardens in Wisely he discovered he was the winner.

Cameron said: "It was a great experience, seeing their gardens and what you can do. I couldn't believe it when I won - I was so pleased. It really boosted me and made me keep going with the school garden."

Since then, he has won several awards including West Dunbartonshire Youth Alliance for Environment, Proud of Dumbarton - two years in a row, and the Ronald G. Nixon

award for Achievement at Dumbarton Academy.

When not in school, either in the classroom or in the garden, Cameron volunteers with the Boys Brigade building bat and bird boxes for the Woodland Trust.

He has helped make over 250, which are placed all over the Craggs and Kilpatrick Hills.

And for the past 18 months he has been running his own gardening and upcycling business, with a very extensive client list.

To support Cameron in his green-fingered endeavours contact 07720439814.





CLYDESIDER GALLERY

BY CAROLINE FINN



'Eclectica by Sarah' welcomes you into a wonderful world of flora and fauna lovingly brought to life in felt by Sarah in her beautiful home in the hills of Old Kilpatrick. From bespoke wedding bouquets, to cake toppers to pet portraits Sarah's work truly is eclectic!

Q. How did you end up in West Dunbartonshire?

A. We visited Scotland a lot and were looking for a change, so were delighted when the opportunity came up with my husband's job to relocate here. Everyone is so friendly, we've met so many lovely people.

Q. How did you become an artist?

A. My mum was very creative, when I was young she used to write and illustrate her own little stories. I've always been creative and I love learning new skills. I was working on a craft project making little croft houses using Harris tweed which I decided to try and put felt roofs on and discovered I loved needle felting, it's so versatile, you can make anything.

Q. Who or what inspires your work?

A. Nature really inspires me, I trained as a florist however I knew I didn't want to work in a flower shop but did want to work with flowers so when I started using felt I decided to try making my own.

Q. Where can we see your work?

A. I have an Etsy page 'EclecticaBySarah' where I sell a lot of my work. I'm also on Facebook which shows what I'm currently working on and lets people know when I'm having a stall at local craft fairs. I sell work in Made Zero in Dumbarton and The Loch Lomond Craft Centre in Alexandria. I also love working on commissions - so get in touch if there's something bespoke you would like.

Q. Is there a famous artist who inspires you?

A. Monet's work has always spoken to me - the colours, the flowers, his work is just beautiful. I do some glass painting and I'd like to try some of his techniques out on glasswork.



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FAIFLEY ROCKS

Photo by Brian Watson

BY CHARLIE SHERRY

Local school kids, volunteers and students from Glasgow University, joined archaeologist Kenny Brophy and his team to carry out a community excavation in Auchnacraig woods, Faifley this summer.

They were in search of prehistoric rock art which can be found on the stones and boulders buried in the hills above Clydebank.

Unknown to many locals, the series of rock markings which includes the Cochno Stone, is the largest of its kind in the British Isles.

These latest excavations are aimed at investigating further to reveal more of the prehistoric rock art and any subsequent markings on the stones right up to 20th century.

Kenny explained: "We hope to reveal more rock art and any later markings in the hope of making them more accessible, not only for archaeologists, but for the whole community."

The excavation is the latest in a series of digs Kenny has led in Auchnacraig

woods which he hopes, with local involvement, will lead to the stones becoming a major visitor attraction for the area.

He added: "I hope that the stones will be a fantastic resource for academic study for present and future archaeologists from around the world. They have the potential to be a major visitor attraction which could help generate vital income for the area, helping the local economy."

Kenny is passionate that local residents should play a major role at each step of the development of the stones. "It is crucial that local residents are involved to make sure that any future development of the site's potential is a success."

With that in mind members of Clydebank High School's Archaeology Club were an integral part of the dig, as were many local volunteers and 100 primary pupils from local schools had been on a site visit learning all they could about the rock art left by their prehistoric ancestors.

ALEXANDRIA NEEDS LOVE

Clydesider Creative is delighted to share some of the findings from our first community report – the 'Vale in Focus.'

It brings together a diverse mix of voices and ideas about the quality of life, place and space in central Alexandria and is for the local community to use however they wish.

The 32-page document is the culmination of a three-month project between Clydesider Creative, Inclusive Images social enterprise and the Loch Lomond Craft Centre and is part of the Scottish Government's Place Standard Conversations.

The Place Standard tool is designed to "encourage communities to come together to identify strengths in the local area and help plan priorities" around 14 topic headings.

These topics provided the discussion points for the 'Vale in Focus' participatory photography workshops which Inclusive Images ran earlier in the year in Alexandria C.E Centre.

A group of nine local people took part in the workshops taking over 150 photos between them and then selecting and captioning their favourite images which were used to create a Community Exhibition.

The exhibition encouraged further debate and discussion and we combined comments from 70 – 80

people who attended both the workshops and the community event with local context and data on each topic, to produce 'The Vale in Focus' report.

This was the first time Clydesider Creative had organised a community conversation event so we were delighted with the level of participation and interest from local people.

Hard copies of the report have been given to all the community

groups who attended the event and we have left copies in the Loch Lomond Craft Centre, Alexandria Library and with the Vale of Leven Trust. We will also be sending it to local councillors, MPs, MSPs, the Scottish Government and various departments in West Dunbartonshire Council.

We hope the local Alexandria community will find the report useful – we know it is already being used for at least three funding applications. If you or your organisation do put it to use please drop us an email and let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

The Vale in Focus



A Place Standard Community Conversation

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VALE IN FOCUS FINDINGS

- Alexandria is seen as a poor relation to Dumbarton and Clydebank town centres.
- Central Alexandria is generally well served by public transport, but outlying areas are very isolated.
- Free parking is a benefit, however not enough of it. Problem of illegal parking.
- Tow-path is well-used during the day but in need of better lighting, seating and signage.
- Road infrastructure exceptionally poorly designed.
- Mitchell Way seen as an eyesore and plans for a new supermarket unimaginative, unlikely to resolve deep-rooted problems.
- Alexandria is in close proximity to an abundance of natural spaces, however most are badly neglected, poorly lit and underutilised.
- Little benefit from proximity to Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Improved infrastructure linking it to National Park needed.
- Essential services - police, social work, job centre - moved out of the Vale.
- Real sense of pride in Vale Hospital, seen as a crucial amenity which can't be lost.
- The C.E Centre changed dramatically. No longer seen as welcoming community space, instead a real barrier to community involvement and participation.
- Lack of good quality job opportunities. More support needed for small start-up businesses with a social purpose.
- Satisfaction with most of the housing in the Vale.
- Need for informal community spaces where people could meet and access support/advice.
- Older people have a strong sense of belonging and fond memories but little to provide younger generation with same sense of pride.
- Area does not feel a safe place particularly for women and members of the LGBT community. High levels of domestic violence mean women feel unsafe both indoors and outdoors.
- Strong feeling of being over consulted and under listened to by those in positions of power.
- Desire for more personal and community responsibility and ownership with support from local/national government and statutory bodies to ensure grassroots initiatives have the best chance of survival and achievement.

'Vale in Focus' available from
www.clydesider.org



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POTENT PAST

BY HOLLY MUNN

There's something brewing in Dumbarton which blends a potent mix of the town's proud history with natural produce made right here in West Dunbartonshire.

The alchemy takes place in Dumbarton's Lennox Brewery and local business partners Iain McLaren and Andrew Jarvis hope they have concocted a recipe for success.

The microbrewery opened for business at the end of 2018 after both Iain and Andrew reached a turning point in their respective careers which saw them looking to branch out into something new.

Andrew, who had been brewing his own beer at home for ten years introduced Iain to the concept, and together they brainstormed possible business ideas.

Iain explained: "Andrew was always coming in and raving about the beers that he had made, so I got into it that way. We were sort of kicking around ideas about what line of work we could get into instead of what we were doing and we just said well how about a brewery?"

Dumbarton is no stranger to the beer business, having once been home to the Crown Brewery which closed its doors for the last time in the 1950's.

"There's been quite an absence in the area for brewing and we have always said that we want to use the local

history to steer how we make and brand our beers," Iain said.

The town's rich history is something which Lennox Brewery have chosen to incorporate into their beverages at every step of the way. From positioning of the label, to using their own take on the Lennox family crest as their logo, to the flavour of beers that they have on offer.



"We want to use the history of the area to come up with different beer names and even different styles of beer that have been consumed in - what is now West Dunbartonshire - throughout the ages."

And after time spent filling out forms and carrying out research and development the pair were good to go in June 2018.

As they continue to develop the business moving forward means looking back. They hope to hone in on the history surrounding the Vikings and take inspiration from their unique flavours such as heather and cherry.

As well as the Vikings, beer brewing also has connections to several other significant historical eras that play a prominent role in the town's past including Mary Queen of Scots and Robert the Bruce.

"You're almost spoiled for choice on what to go for," Iain added. "Obviously keeping the Scottish connection as well is important - Scotland the brand is really big."

Keeping things local also extends to the ingredients which go into the beer.

For their Cranachan Ale, Iain uses honey which he cultivates in his own

hives, a passion which has stayed with him from childhood.

"We add the honey to the boil and it gives it a sort of floral tone and sweetness. The sugars in honey are different to the sugars you get out of grain and the yeast doesn't always digest the honey sugars, so you're left with a slightly sweeter beer."

With the craft beer industry going from strength to strength, Lennox Brewery are hoping that they can be part of the next big

thing, whilst keeping things small.

"It's got to the stage where a lot of your commercial stuff has just got so obviously artificial and people are just a bit fed up with it. It's really great that there are so many microbreweries out there doing so many great things."

They are now set to build the brand and take it to the next level, while maintaining a strong social media presence and ensuring it continues to be represented at local events.



Self-Directed Support is an approach to social care giving adults, children and carers who require support, more **choice** and **control** over how it is delivered.

We are a local service providing free, independent information on Self-Directed Support.

If you would like a chat please get in touch.

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BERLIN BOUND

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CLYDESIDER EDITORIAL BY AMANDA
ELEFThERIADES-SHERRY

'Mighty oaks from small acorns grow'
– so the saying goes.

We're not quite at the oak stage yet
but Clydesider is rapidly gaining
national and international recognition
for our 'engaged journalism' ways of
working.

In Issue 9 we reported on our success
in being one of just eight news
organisations from across Europe to be
selected to join the Engaged
Journalism Accelerator.

This accolade brought with it short-
term funding, training and mentorship.

And in June we were asked to share
some of our practices and ideas by
delivering a workshop at the
Accelerator's first international
conference in Berlin.

The 'Engaged Explained Live 2019'
event brought together over 140
journalists from across Europe and
further afield to explore best practices
in community-driven media.

We ran a practical workshop on how to
use creative events as catalysts for
community conversations.

Our audience included journalists from
Germany, Poland, Denmark, the
Netherlands, UK and India.

Some worked in news organisations
like Clydesider but most worked in
traditional newsrooms which recognise
they are losing their audiences and
looking for ways to engage with them.

While in Berlin we learned the
Clydesider's achievements were being
recognised back home.

Gil Paterson, our local MSP, put
forward a motion to the Scottish
Parliament congratulating us on being
selected to showcase our work in
Berlin and thanking "all involved with
Clydesider for their efforts to celebrate
talent across West Dunbartonshire and
sharing good news stories."

And as a result of participating in the
Berlin event we have been asked to
host a workshop at the Community

Media Conference in Manchester in September.

When I first started planning Clydesider I just wanted to create something to promote the positives and show the potential West Dunbartonshire has to offer. I never expected the level of national and international interest in what we are doing.

One of the main reasons we have gained this recognition is down to our wonderful volunteers who are from all walks of life. Some have experience in news skills - but many don't.

The one thing they do all share is a passion for our local community – its history, its scenery and, most important of all, its people.

We provide training in community journalism skills, photography and have just started a six-week series of film-making workshops.

We now also have a local base in Dumbarton one morning a week in the Levensgrove Park training room where volunteers can come to work on their articles or photography with support from myself or one of our team.

If there is enough interest we will also open a regular base in Clydebanks. For

now we are organising some Pop-up Community Newsrooms across West Dunbartonshire to talk to people about local news and how to get involved – keep an eye on our social media for details.

In Issue 9 we asked our readers to complete a short survey to tell us what you thought of the magazine.

The feedback was very positive – the Word Cloud graphic captures what you

told us you like about the magazine. The words which stand out are the ones repeated most often – 'positive, local, interesting, informative, free, fun, friendly, community and creative'.

We're delighted and proud this is what you like about us – it feels as if we're on the right track.

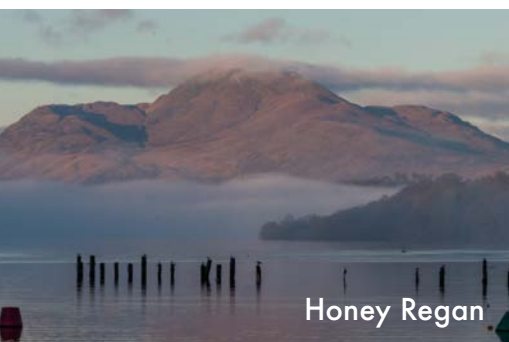


Our volunteers are our lifeblood and we need help with all aspects of the organisation – not just editorial content for the magazine. So if you have a few hours to spare once a week or once a month we'd love to hear from you.

If you are interested in getting involved with Clydesider please drop us an email to theclydesider@gmail.com or call 01389 381110.

NATIONAL NATURE WINNERS

Three young photographers from West Dunbartonshire have scooped top prizes in a national nature photo competition.



Honey Regan



Kathryn Birnie



Conor Birnie

Balloch youngster, Honey Regan, won 1st prize in the 8-12 years category.

Honey explained how she got involved: "I had been out with my camera in the area working towards my Guides Photography Badge and noticed the

Loch Lomond National Park photo competition online, so I decided to enter some images. I'm very happy I did, I've won some amazing prizes."

The winner of the 13-17 years category was 16 year old Kathryn Birnie from Alexandria.

Kathryn, who entered the competition as part of the development group 'Ooot, Scoot

and Aboot' said she was "surprised and delighted to be awarded first prize in the competition."

And Conor Birnie, 22, was inspired by the photos on the National Park's Instagram page to enter his own images.

He said: "I'm super happy to have won this competition; it's amazing to know that other people enjoy my photos and inspires me to want to take even more photos."

The competition was run by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park to celebrate Year of The Young 2018 and was open to 8 - 26 year olds.

The young people were asked to share their photographs of the National Park with a short description explaining the story behind the picture and what it meant to them.

There were over 130 entries from all over the country with local winners in all age categories.

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WHAT'S ON

Balloch Big Music Weekend

August 3 and 4 – a fun-filled weekend of music for all the family. Various venues throughout Balloch. See page 5 for details.

Drop-in Knit & Natter

Dalmuir Library every Wednesday from 10am – 2pm. Everyone welcome - bring your own project or work with other group members to create various charity projects. New members welcome. £2/week to cover tea/coffee & biscuits.

Clydebank Community Soup

September 3 2019 at 7pm Salvation Army Hall, Clydebank Shopping Centre

If you have an idea to help local people in Clydebank and need some funding to get started the Community Soup crowdfunding event might be for you.

Enjoy an evening of entertainment and soup; pay £3 or what you can afford at the door and listen to 4 or 5 people pitch ideas about how Clydebank could be improved as a place to live, enjoy a bowl of soup and then vote for the idea you think should be funded.

To find out more and secure your chance to pitch for funding contact:

Sean on 01389 737232 or Colin on 01389 738670 or email

YourCommunity@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Family Support Drop-ins

Wednesdays at Alexandria C.E Centre 12.30 – 1.30pm; Thursdays 3pm – 6.30pm

Y-Sort It, Kilbowie Road, Clydebank; Fridays 2pm – 5pm Chest, Heart & Stroke Community Room, Dumbarton

Support for any teenager and young adult (12-26) affected by someone else's alcohol or drug use. One-to-one or group support available, along with fun activities and outings. For more information please call or text Claire on 07387 852186 or Facebook – ScottishFamiliesYoungPersonsProject

Clydebank Life Story Group

Meet every month, including over the summer, on the first Friday of each month, 10 am – 12 noon at Waterfront Church Hall, Clydebank. New members always welcome.

Literary Open Mic Night

First Monday of the month, Balloch House Hotel from 6.30pm – five-minute slots are available on a first come first served basis. All welcome.

Clydebank History Group

Meet at 7.30pm in Morison Memorial Church Hall, Clydebank on the first and third Monday of the month from October – March.

Enjoy a series of illustrated talks aimed at creating greater awareness of the history, culture and heritage of Clydebank.

CLYDESIDER Credits

A big thank you to our fantastic team of volunteers who come from all walks of life – you are a real joy to work with.

We would also like to thank all our advertisers, our supporting subscribers and funders. You are all helping to shine a light on the good news stories and creative talents in our communities.

About CLYDESIDER

Clydesider Creative Ltd is a not-for-profit social enterprise based in West Dunbartonshire. The Clydesider community magazine promotes the positives our area has to offer in terms of people, place, scenery and history and showcases the creative talents, ideas and experiences of local people.

If you would like to get involved and be part of West Dunbartonshire's good news story just drop us an email to theclydesider@gmail.com

Contact CLYDESIDER

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Editorial: Call Amanda on 07913029234 or email amanda@clydesider.org

Advertising: Call 07948829983 or email

clydesideradvertising@gmail.com

Competitions: Email clydesidercomp@gmail.com

Creative Cafes: Call Caroline on 07305906882 or email caroline@clydesider.org

Community Engagement: Call Jenny on 07877889419 or email

jenny@clydesider.org

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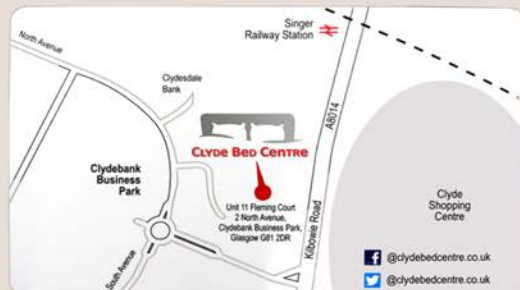


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