

Winter 2021

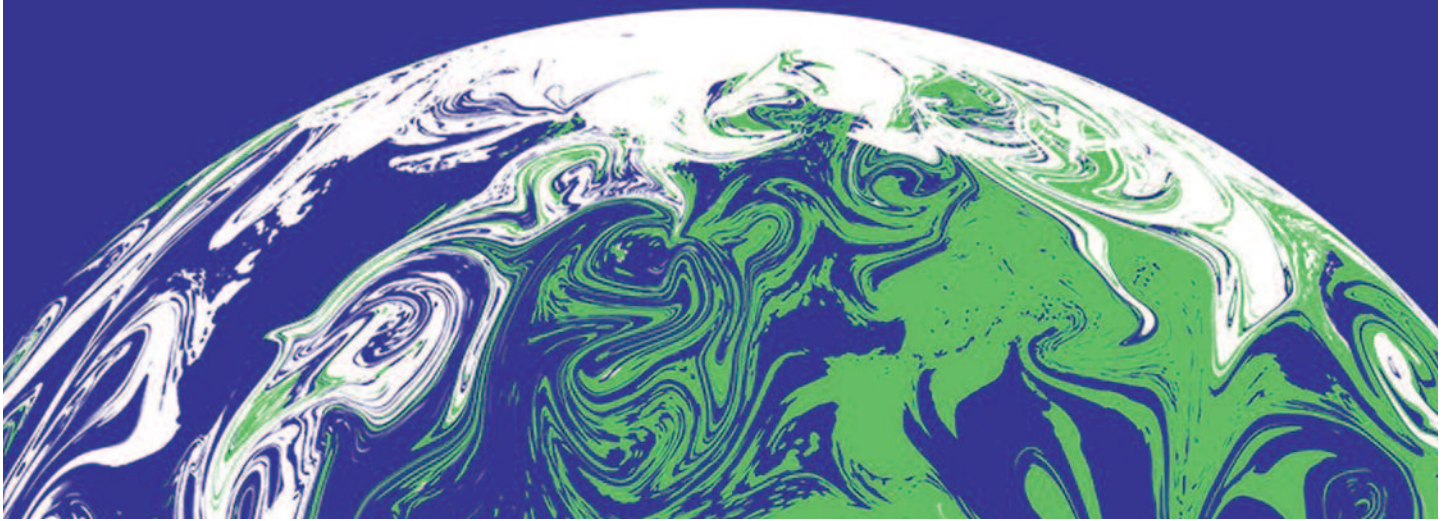
DRUMCHAPEL NEWS



WE ARE BACK



The Struggle for Mother Earth is the mother of All Struggles!



COP26 has brought closer to home, literally, as it was in Glasgow, the issue of the fast-changing climate and the effects around the world. Heat waves, floods, forest fires are now daily items on the news. The consequences of these climate changes affect us all but, as always, much more drastically, the most vulnerable.



The switch from fossil fuels to sourcing green energy alternatives is being flagged up as one, if not, the solution, but is it really? As always, to install the necessary equipment to make the green energy work, raw materials are still required. Wind turbines, car batteries for electric cars and solar panels all need two main components, cobalt, and lithium. Both raw materials are to be found underground and in many cases in countries with high rates of poverty like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Chile, Bolivia, and Brazil as well as Australia and Canada.

Due to these raw materials being underground, once again, like with fossil fuels, an extraction process will be required. In the poorer countries, cobalt and lithium mines are being dug with the consequences felt by the local communities. Channel 4's Unreported World of 4th November, under the heading of "the toxic cost for going green", showed cobalt miners working in extremely dangerous conditions to extract the cobalt and handing it over to "middlemen" who then raise the price and earn much more than what the miners receive. It also showed the effects on local people's health, some suffering with breathing difficulties while



others see their children born with life lasting physical impairments. These materials are also finite, like the fossil fuels, and so eventually will come to an end.

In Drumchapel we have some small initiatives which try to mitigate the effects of global warming; Growchapel is a green space for cultivating plants, flowers, and vegetables and also for people to meet; the Cycle hub is an opportunity for local people to use a bike as opposed to car and bus and also helps with physical and mental health; the recent housing development in Invercanny has built well-insulated houses with solar panels for generating energy, and the Bluebell woods are a carbon sink which will have to be preserved.



However, this problem is bigger than Drumchapel, it is global. Banks, huge corporations, which in many cases, are still funding fossil fuel projects across the globe are now wanting to show that they are investing in alternative forms of green energy. Their objective is to guarantee the continuity of profit flowing into their accounts, but the process continues the same. What is needed is more community-based energy producers linked in with the communities who live and work in the countries who produce the raw materials, combined with a radical change in our consumer patterns. Hence the term climate justice, where the rich countries should support the poorer ones, who are the least responsible for climate change. Communities throughout the world must unite to establish a new energy producing system, because as the indigenous woman from the Brazilian Amazon said in Glasgow Green at the biggest rally ever seen in Glasgow, "the struggle for mother earth is the mother of all struggles!"





Drumchapel Community Council

The Community Council held its annual general meeting on the 8th of November in the Goodyear Social Club. This is where we have been meeting in the past three months due to the lack of venues in Drumchapel.

A piece of good news is that the Range Superstore is well underway creating job opportunities for local people and if you are interested, please contact your local jobcentre to help with your application. Another piece of good news is that the road at the Health Centre has finally re-opened after a painful 18 months. However, the bad news is that, despite constant concerns from the Community Council about the two large craters in the shopping centre, there has been no movement from the owners which has had a detrimental effect on the footfall, with shoppers having to avoid the craters.



Partnership for a memorial that will be placed in Drumchapel Park. It will be a Covid memorial, for the community to leave a keepsake or sit and have some time to reflect on loved ones. We also have money for Christmas lights and are in discussions of where these should be. There is a large fir tree in the park that would be perfect for lights to go around. This idea came about after the community came together last year and put-up fairy lights around the trees in the park. We have a plot at the Growchapel site and look forward to growing fruit and vegetables which will be distributed amongst the community. Three community councillors are taking part in the Activate course which helps build skills in community activism and community development. Finally, we have been active in the campaign for Glasgow Against Closures which is challenging the closures of museums, community centres and libraries in Glasgow. The Community Council continues to be the



The Community Council has been more active in the community now that the restrictions are easing. We have identified and discussed with the relevant people about the blocked drains around Drumchapel and asked for this to be rectified. We have also participated in Keep Drumchapel Tidy Campaign where we were out with local people and groups to tackle the issue of litter around Drumchapel. We received funds from the Area



voice of the local community engaging with relevant persons and welcome anyone who would like to attend our meetings.



Show Racism the Red Card

Show Racism the Red Card campaign works extensively across the UK tackling racism within professional and grass-roots football. On the 22nd of October Thriving Places decided to host a campaign event outside the Chest Heart & Stroke shop in Drumchapel. Tables were placed outside the shop to attract people who were keen to take part and show that racism is not tolerated in Drumchapel. Iain Corbett from Children Neighbourhood Scotland encouraged the children at the local schools to create posters and positive messages which were displayed on the shop window. There was also food from around the world available for those who wanted to try something different, and the music outside helped create a friendly atmosphere and brought the community together. Residents were keen to share their views and experiences on racism and wrote messages that were displayed next to the children's work on the shop window. Fortune Works members came along to show their solidarity against racism. The atmosphere was euphoric and demonstrated a positive outlook from the people of Drumchapel against racism.



Community Budgeting

Thriving Places received £10,000 from the Northwest Health Improvement Team for local groups to participate in a democratic process of community budgeting. Community budgeting encourages all involved to discuss how an amount of public money should be shared appropriately and fairly. The group agreed that the maximum amount that could be applied for per group was £1000 as well as the rules and criteria to be met to access the grant. All the participating groups received a copy of every project so as to discuss and eventually approve the various projects to be delivered to benefit the local community. The groups involved varied in terms of age and included groups who work with people living with disabilities or mental health issues.

Community Consultation

Glasgow City Council has set aside £20 million to produce six community hubs around the city and Drumchapel is one of those six. It was agreed that Drumchapel Community Council, with support from Thriving Places, would consult the local community and groups to discuss, hear suggestions and take note of what local people believe a community hub should be. To date the Community Council and Thriving Places have drawn up a proposal and questionnaire that was submitted to People Make Glasgow Communities. Since the beginning of September, we have been engaging door-to-door to speak with residents, holding conversations with members of the community in the shopping centre and attending local groups and events to discuss the new hub. There is still some work to be done to ensure we reach as many people as possible. We still have many homes to visit and have adapted the questionnaire for local school children whose opinions are also important. So far, we have interacted with over 100 residents who have demonstrated a passion for a hub that is community orientated. If you do see us out and about chatting or if we come to your door, please speak with us as we are keen to hear everyone's view and push for what the people of Drumchapel are asking for a community hub that the people want.





Friendship House

This is a weekly get together in the Hut beside Drumchapel Essenside United Reformed Church. Covid played a huge part interrupting the delivery of the service but as of Wednesday 8th September it resumed and is now on each Wednesday from 12pm – 2.30pm. The service is free, facilitated by a group of volunteers within the church. Local people welcome asylum seekers and refugees who have stayed here for a while or are new to the area, essentially providing them with a safe, friendly, and protective environment to congregate. It creates an opportunity for everyone to bolster our communication skills, make new friends, become more involved in local activities that can potentially have an impact on people's future while accessing much needed support from various organisations based in Drumchapel.



ESOL – English for Speakers of Other languages.

Prior to Covid, we worked in partnership with the Friendship House group to organise an English for Speakers of Other Languages course for asylum seekers and refugees who live in Drumchapel and the wider area. This was facilitated by a volunteer tutor from Glasgow Clyde College. Now that we have more leeway with the restrictions being eased, we were notified that Glasgow Clyde College was keen to reconvene ESOL classes in the Drumchapel area. We saw this as the perfect opportunity to work alongside them to provide further support for the asylum seekers and refugees we work with, giving them the chance to improve their English and communication skills. The classes remain free of charge, and recommenced at the Hut beside Essenside Church on Friday 22nd October and are on every Monday and Friday from 10am – 12pm.

Activate

On the 16th of September, we saw the continuation of the Activate Course here in Drumchapel. The course is facilitated by Lynette Jordan who is a Community Development lecturer from the University of Glasgow. Activate is a community-based introduction to Community Development. It is an informal and participatory approach to learning where local people can build capacity, reflect on what they do in the community and why they do it, working together collectively to find ways of contributing to the development of their community. During the course the participants receive the opportunity to learn different practice approaches and key theories in relation to community development. The tasks the participants must undertake are writing an assignment on a time where they experienced or witnessed discrimination, complete a small community investigation and present the findings back to the group as well as deliver a presentation on group dynamics. After completion everyone will receive accreditation that can perhaps play a significant part in their future, for example, going on to further education or employment. Everyone who successfully finalises the course will have the opportunity of an interview for a chance to study a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Community Development at the University of Glasgow. The feedback received is outstanding and the good news is that there will be further opportunities for more people from Drumchapel to take part in this same course in the future.



COMPETITION TIME!!

Some Christmas Fun

Follow the colour chart or create your own colours to enter our Christmas Competition. The closing date is **Christmas Eve at 4 pm** and you can either drop your completed picture into the Thriving Places shop down at Chest Heart & Stroke shop or send the picture to our Thriving Places Facebook page. **The winner will be announced after the New Year via Facebook live with the names being drawn from a hat.**



Name: _____ Date: _____

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8: Yellow | 9: Blue | 12: Red |
| 11: Purple | 10: Black | 13: Orange |
| 14: green | | |

Thriving Places
would like to
wish you all a
very Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year



Front page pictures by: tom cleanwood on Visualhunt.com and Michelle O'Connell Photography on Visualhunt.com



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