

Help Needed

The existence of the Lochmaben Initiative depends on the good will and work of a small group of dedicated volunteers. At present most of the members are 'of a certain age' and to continue to operate we need an infusion of younger, enthusiastic recruits who may bring fresh ideas and enterprise to the group.

Some of the work carried out within the past year or so includes a twice yearly litter pick of the main streets and park areas of the town – a never ending task in our throwaway society, it seems.

There is a weekly computer mentoring session held in the church Meeting Room. A small group of Lockerbie Academy pupils offer their expertise in all matters to do with computers, mobile phones, iPads etc. to those folks less knowledgeable who want to get more out of their gizmos.

In the past, the Initiative has organised local path signage, information boards round the lochs, assisted with the continuation of floral displays in planters and plots around the town.

The Initiative strongly supported the steering group which organised the purchase from Halleaths Estate of the Castle Loch and environs, and eventually became the Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust, which now very successfully runs that project. The Initiative has composed, organised and distributed the twice yearly Newsletter to every household in the town and surrounding district including Templand and the Royal Four Towns.

If you think of anything which needs doing or would enhance the facilities in and around the town, it's possible the Initiative could take it up and, in conjunction with the Community Council, look into the possibility of carrying it out.

One of the latest suggestions is to give the Victory Park a makeover adding to the children's play equipment, expanding the floral displays and creating a proper path across the park to complete the Castle Loch walk over the boggy ground near the loch.

We'd also like to set up a programme of Family Fun for Lochmaben's 2017 Day of the Region later in the year.

Without more willing, enthusiastic and younger volunteers, these ideas, which will benefit all residents of the town, cannot all be taken forward. If you can spare some time to help please ring the Initiative Chairman, Howard Baisden, on 07796617813

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The Community Newsletter Autumn Edition.

We have funding in place for the autumn edition of our Newsletter and for the 2017 edition of 'Keep it Local'. Please submit items in the usual way after 16th September. Deadline will be 30th September. Publication/distribution date will be the weekend of October 13, 14 and 15.

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Congratulations to the Burgh's latest centenarian, Grace Harkness, who reached the magical milestone on Tuesday, 25th April. Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries, Fiona Armstrong, dropped in with a message from the Queen.



Working for Lochmaben and District

Initiative News- Spring 2017

You will have noticed that this newsletter is a pale shadow of the Community Newsletter which many of you have come to expect every spring.

Why?

Lochmaben and District Community Initiative, who produce it for you, depend on public funding and, like other community groups in Annandale, we are currently experiencing increasing difficulty in attracting funding for the project.

It currently costs in the region of £1400 to produce our two newsletters. While we do have some money in hand and a modest income from the website, this is a cost which we cannot sustain, especially if we need to continue to undertake more projects in the future. Because it is currently very difficult to secure funding from any source, printing 1400 copies of a 20 page newsletter twice a year and distributing it free is no longer viable. **Fortunately, with support from the Area Committee and the George Hunter Trust, we will be able to publish the autumn 2017 editions of the Community Newsletter and 'Keep it Local'.**

Options we are now having to consider.

We could:-

- a. Set a charge of 50p per copy. This would cover the production costs.
Would you be prepared to pay that?
- b. Ask for a donation for each copy, either on a regular basis or as a single gift.

- c. Cut back on the content of the newsletter and produce a document like the one you are reading now once or twice a year. This we could afford to do.
- d. Look for a sponsor. Do you know of anyone who would be prepared to provide the funding we need? If so, please let us
- e. Publish online only. Those wishing a copy could download and print at home (as those who prefer a colour version can already do). People who have no Internet access would have to make other arrangements. Let us know what you think. Production costs to us would be minimal.
- f. Stop producing the newsletters altogether.

We like to think that the newsletter is the only printed source of up-to-date information available to everybody in the community. From comparatively modest beginnings it has grown, over the years, to the resource that it now is. Many people, we know from experience, welcome its appearance when we deliver it. We appreciate that these are difficult times for a lot of people, but either we secure additional funds from somewhere, or we have to radically alter the newsletter.

If you value the newsletter please take the time to let us know what you think. Contact:-

Howard Baisden	07796617813
the Website	www.lochmaben.org.uk
Facebook	Community Initiative page

There's lots to do in Lochmaben. At the Town Hall there are a number of leaflets which give details of what Lochmaben has to offer. There are also details on the website of the many clubs operating in Lochmaben. You'll be made very welcome so, if you want to get involved, give the contact person a ring.

If you prefer to be outdoors through the summer, how about getting fit at the same time? Join one of these clubs now.

Club	Contact
Bowling Club	Hazel Sloan 01387 811830
Tennis Club	Mary Park 01387 810627
Sailing Club	Bev Wilkinson 07762326711
Golf Club	Michael Dickie 01387 810713
Better4Walking	K Robertson 0770 4223564



The Castle Loch Walk is a jewel in Lochmaben's crown. It's free, it's a great way to get fit and healthy, to see fauna and flora in abundance and is a superb family walk.

Pipe Band

There's a very successful Pipe Band in Lochmaben. They meet for practice on Thursday evenings at Lochmaben Primary School. Contact is Alan Hope via the band's Facebook page.

Local Services

The Town Hall now houses the Library and Customer Services in the Upper Hall, accessible by stair or lift.

Customer Services provided at the Library: Get Benefit Advice; Borrow books, audio books, e-books & DVDs; Get Free Wi-Fi access; Ask about Bin collections; Find out about local & family history; Enquire about Council Services; Use computers with free internet access.

Contact:-01387811865

liblochmaben@dumgal.gov.uk

Opening Times **Wednesday: 9.00 am-12 Noon** (9.30-10 am Book bug Session for 0-4 Year olds--Free Family event).

Thursday- 2.00 pm-5.00 pm

Saturday: 10.00 am-1.00 pm

The Lochmaben Centre. Full programme of indoor sporting and leisure activities. Aerobics, yoga, judo, circuit training, soft play for pre-school, children's party facilities in a party zone. Also wide variety of community activities such as Senior Citizens Christmas Party, bowling, football, badminton, concerts and even a wedding reception. Stenedyke Crescent, Lochmaben Tel: 01387 810599

Bank Services

The Royal Bank of Scotland mobile banking service visits the Car Park at the Community Centre on Wednesday mornings 11.35am – 12.35pm

Post Office opening times

The Post Office is located at Pettigrew's shop on the High Street and is open as follows:-

Mon 2pm-3.45pm: Wed 10am-3.45pm: Fri 10am-3.45pm.

Details of local Train and Bus timetables are all available locally.

