



# The LDVG Newsletter

*supporting our community since 1994*

Issue #5  
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Scottish Charity: SC028557  
Company No: 203087

## SURF AWARD LEAVES US FLOORED

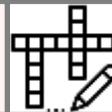
We are delighted to announce that The Larkhall Community Network has received the Special Recognition Award at the 2020 SURF Awards!

With its origins in The COVID-19 Rainbows, this incredible collaboration of local community groups has been a pillar of support for the community since last March. Recognising the service access, health, and mental health issues that would arise from the pandemic the network has worked tirelessly to ensure this support. New services have been piloted. New funding has been secured. New partnerships have been forged. Best of all, so many volunteers, old and new, have stepped forward to devote their time to this support. Here are just some of what has been accomplished under this partnership:



5,457 hot meals delivered

Over 1,000 activity packs handed out



Over 19,000 calls through **LDVG's Call Line**

This work has empowered so many people in the community. A huge congratulations and a thank you go out to everybody involved. A large part of why The Larkhall Community Network received this award was because of its dedication to continuing this support beyond the pandemic. The network is currently working to get everything in place to ensure that this project continues to develop and form new partnerships. We're all very excited to see where it goes next!



## LDVG'S FREE SHOPPING BUS SERVICE CONTINUES

The LDVG shopping bus service is funded by Smarter Choices Smarter Places, which is Path's For All's programme to increase active and sustainable travel throughout Scotland. The programme is grant funded by Transport Scotland. The shopping bus collects our members from their homes and takes them to a variety of retail establishments before returning them home. This service is much appreciated by the people who use it, with our members saying:



“ I'm getting to shops I wouldn't get to otherwise. It's made a huge difference! ”

“ It gets me out more. I really look forward to the journey every week. ”

Members of the community in the Strutherhill & Birkenshaw area were invited to take part in a participatory budgeting voting activity. It was a huge success with 192 valid votes being recorded. We are delighted that based on voting results, LDVG will receive a total of £678.82 to be spent on local activities in the Strutherhill & Birkenshaw area. This will allow us to continue the service until the end of March 2022. We are also introducing a shopping bus from the Hareleeshill area which will run every Tuesday. Please give the office a call to get yourself signed up. You will need to complete a short registration form if you are new to the service, and will be given all the details over the phone.



Remember to ask for your complimentary Shopping Bags, Masks and Mug!!! Free to all Shopping bus members!!!

# GET YOUR TARTAN LOOKED OUT FOR KILTWALK 2021

Last year's Kiltwalks were a great opportunity to raise funds for LDVG, with an incredible £7,602 raised between the two events thanks to volunteers, members and staff. We are pleased to announce that LDVG has assembled another team for the next Kiltwalk event, taking place from the 23rd to the 25th of April.

This is a great chance to raise funds for LDVG and the services and activities we operate. Anything you can donate is generously topped up 50% by The Hunter Foundation, turning a £10 donation into a £15 donation!



The LDVG team currently have six members taking part this year!

We are still gladly accepting donations, please use this link below to make a contribution, it will be much appreciated!

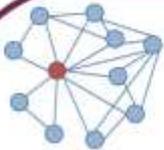
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## A HISTORIC FIND

One of our Genealogy Group members, Jim Anderson, struck gold in finding a "black box" in his home with a horde of documents from his grandfather. This included details of his house purchase and refurbishment, letters and stamps and envelopes of Tonga "Tin Can Mail". One letter mentioned relatives who went to the USA, who Jim was able to find details of by searching the USA Census. Jim is a retired IT Systems Engineer and is using this find as an opportunity to learn new skills in the field. So far he has produced a slideshow which he has shown to the group, which they found to be very informative. He will also be making it into a video presentation which is to be shown to the group and to Lanarkshire Family History Society on the 8th of April. The Genealogy Group meets on Zoom every Monday, and is run with the help of our expert volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more and joining these meetings, contact us!



*Pictured is one of the Genealogy Groups meetings in progress, Jim can be seen top right.*



## Larkhall Community Network

Contact us on Facebook 'Larkhall Community Network'

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

**Contact us for local emergency support during Covid pandemic**

**A range of services are being delivered by local organisations to help you through these difficult times**

**Ring 07510 593 949 or email [xcovid19rainbows@gmail.com](mailto:xcovid19rainbows@gmail.com)**

**Larkhall Community Network is the partnership of community, private and public sectors working together for the benefit of local people**

# Welcome to our new Staff Members!



Chloe Charles - Admin Assistant

"I am thrilled to be joining the team. My husband and I are from the Brecon Beacons in Wales originally but as he is in the Army we have lived a somewhat nomadic lifestyle for the past 10 years! I have a house full, with 3 young children, a cat and a dog, and there is never a dull moment - but that's how we prefer it! We are looking forward to finally putting down some roots and being a part of the community. I look forward to meeting everyone over the coming weeks."

John Downs - Activities Assistant

"Hello, my name is John and I am lucky enough to have become a part of the LDVG team. I'm excited to work in a position where I get the chance to use my creativity and imagination. I am a geeky gamer with a passion for musical theatre. I love to sing and try to teach myself piano (I learn the intro, then that's all I play over and over again). You rarely find me without my phone in my hand. I am an animal lover, a food lover and a selfie lover. I look forward to meeting all members and volunteers as soon as the craziness is all over."



Jackie Gavin - Cleaner & Caretaker

"Hi, my name is Jackie. I have been volunteering with LDVG for the past 3 years helping with tea dances and various functions. I worked in retail for the past 47 years. I retired in November 2000 but that only lasted 4 months, as I accepted the job with LDVG!!!"

## & some new faces on the board too!

Jennifer Howdle

Jennifer joined the board in 2020. She has a BSc Psychology (Hons) and has worked within the charitable sector for 15 years. She is currently working as a Team Leader with the Citizens Advice service. Jennifer has a passion for the third sector and is excited to contribute to the development of LDVG.



Stylianos Souleimetzidis

With a background in operations and commercial management, Stylianos joined LDVG in 2020. He is a Chartered Manager and holds a BA in Computer Engineering and a Master in Business Administration, currently working in Project Management roles within the IT industry. Stylianos is a proud member of LDVG and is focused on safeguarding its contribution to the community's well-being.



Stuart McDowell

Stuart joined the Board in 2020 and has a background in financial services. During his 30+ years in the sector, Stuart managed teams across Europe and held senior positions in Terex. Stuart is a local lad having been born in Quarter and is also the president of the Lanarkshire Leagues Bowling Association. He is looking forward to working with LDVG and in furthering its development and growth within the community.



# BUILDING UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that our new central heating system has been installed and our premises redecorated. We would like to thank Precise Installs Ltd. for their work, which has shaped the building into a warmer and more welcoming place that we can't wait to welcome you back to! Here are some pictures of the progress that has been made. Please keep an eye out on our Facebook for a video of the project too.

## New heating system! Let's get started!



Getting there, we'll be finished soon!



Job done! All cosy and warm now!



# SCAM AWARENESS

We want you to be aware of some recent scams that have been affecting people in the community. These scammers can be ruthless and the more you know, the easier it is to protect yourself.

## GRANT SCAM TEXT

Be aware of unsolicited text messages making false claims that you can apply for a COVID-19 Grant. The grant will claim that you can claim £277.59 and ask you to click the link to begin the application process. Do not click the link and delete the text to be safe.

## BT SCAM CALLERS

A scam caller claiming to be from BT has taken nearly £30,000 from a man in Hamilton. This was after getting his bank details under the guise of a £25 payment to fix his broadband router. Police Scotland and the bank are currently investigating. It is important to know that your internet provider will not contact and ask for your bank details in this way.

## SCAMS AROUND SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

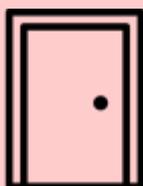
There have been reports of door to door scammers who are claiming to be debt collectors and offering to accompany people to the bank so that they can collect. A 69 year old woman fell victim to this and gave £400 to the scammer.

Another woman had been pestered numerous times by callers claiming to be from Nationwide and that her account had been compromised. She was coerced into withdrawing £5,000 from her account and posting it to an address in Sheffield. She was then asked to transfer further funds to an RBS account and lie to the bank when they phoned to query the suspicious activity.

An 80 year old woman received a text message prompting her to claim an iPhone that she had won by clicking a link. After clicking the link she received a further text from a source claiming to be Amazon, stating that she had purchased the iPhone for £500. This was followed up by a call from the scammer posing as the Bank of Scotland Fraud Department, who convinced her to transfer contents of her account into a fake account.

Always be cautious when dealing with unsolicited calls, messages and visitors. Here are some simple steps you can take to protect yourself:

- If you're in doubt about a caller, simply hang up and call the organisation or company they claim to represent directly.
- If a door to door caller is suspicious, close your door and contact the police (101 for non-emergency and 999 if you feel threatened).
- Do not click the links received in unsolicited messages or emails.
- Do not give personal details or bank account info to any untrusted or unsolicited callers. Your bank will not ask you to state your account details.
- If you wish to report scams, please use 0300 123 2040 or for an online scam please use 0808 250 5050
- You can also call Citizens Advice Bureau if you are worried!



## IN MEMORIA

LDVG is sad to announce these losses. We would like to invite all of those who knew them to take a moment to reflect on your memories and what they meant to you.

Sylvia McLeod passed away at 70 years old in January this year. She will be fondly remembered by her friends at the Strutherhill Lunch Club.

Mary Hallford passed away at 84 years old on 14/01/2021. Mary had been volunteering with LDVG for 10 years, helping with the Lunch Clubs and Call Line. She was a pillar of the community and will be missed by many.

James Smith passed away at 60 years old on 21/01/2021. Our volunteers had been calling James almost everyday for over a decade, and in that time he shared many stories which will cement him in their memories.

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH LDVG

To stay up to date with everything going on with LDVG and its partners, please consider following us on social media. This is where we post updates and news and it's a great way to stay in touch.

Facebook

[facebook.com/LarkhallDistrictVolunteerGroup/](https://facebook.com/LarkhallDistrictVolunteerGroup/)

Twitter

[@LarkhallVolGrp](https://twitter.com/LarkhallVolGrp)

You can also find more information about LDVG and what we do at the following places:

LDVG Website

[www.ldvg.org.uk](http://www.ldvg.org.uk)

LinkedIn

[www.linkedin.com/company/11639116](https://www.linkedin.com/company/11639116)

## HOW YOU CAN GIVE TO LDVG

There are now lots of ways that you can help LDVG to continue making a big difference to the community! Check our website or scan the QR codes for more details.



We are now on Sustainably! This is a free app that raises money for LDVG by rounding up the cost of your online purchases. You can control how much you give, set monthly donations and add gift aid to boost donations by 25%!



You can also support us while shopping online using Easy Fundraising, which contributes a donation to LDVG at no additional cost to you! Easy Fundraising is supported by over 3,600 retailers including Amazon, ASOS and eBay.



We have also recently set up a Just Giving page which you can use to donate to or fundraise for LDVG, contributing to the continuation of all our services.