



LARKHALL +DISTRICT VOLUNTEER GROUP

What's Been Happening 2019 - 2020



Local

Knowledgeable

Caring

Helpful

Address: 55 Victoria Street, Larkhall, ML9 2BL

Phone: 01698 888893

Email: admin@ldvg.org.uk

Who We Are

Larkhall and District Volunteer Group is a voluntary organisation, formed in September 1994 as "Avondale Careline" to provide a friendly chat on the phone to elderly, disabled and housebound people. The services provided have been expanded since 1994 to meet recognised needs within the local community. The Larkhall area covers some 60 square miles and includes rural and urban communities with a diverse range of needs and social circumstances.

We aim to promote the health and wellbeing of the community in Larkhall and the surrounding areas. To meet these aims, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers work hard to provide services, activities and volunteering opportunities for all members of the community.

Contents

The Board	3
Staff Structure	3
Charity Manager's Reflections	4 - 5
Our Awards	6
Our Newest Board Member	7
Transport Report	8
Volunteer Coordinator's Report	8 - 10
Activities and Services	11 - 13
Islay's Story	14 - 15
What Our Volunteers Say	16
Volunteers - Facts and Figures	17
What Our Members Say	18
Members - Facts and Figures	19

The Board



Anne Alston
Chair



Eric Budgell



Jim McCann



Hazel McKay



Paul McLaughlin
Treasurer



Marion Murray



Ronnie Nisbet



Ann Rodger



Michael Vaughan

Staff Structure



Sandra McCrory
Charity Manager



Ann Nisbet
Volunteer Coordinator



Jackie Gallacher
Transport Coordinator



Laura Downs
Activities Assistant



Rachel Hardie
Finance Officer



David Ramsay
Admin Assistant



Peter Gavin
Facilities Officer



Marilyn Coogan
Cleaner/Caretaker

Charity Manager's Reflections

Welcome to our 2019-2020 annual report! The last year was a busy one for us here at LDVG. We faced many challenges and encountered many successes along the way. We wrote our first Business Plan and were steadily working our way through our action points. September 2019 was the beginning of our 25th anniversary year, which we planned to celebrate throughout 2020, but this, along with many other plans, was side-tracked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Partnerships have always been important to us, and this became more apparent in March of this year. Thanks to relationships established with the Our Place Our Plan group and the Larkhall Plan Partnership, we were able to mobilise quickly to work with our



partners and the community to respond to the COVID-19 lockdown. The impact of the pandemic will be far reaching and will change the way we operate going forward.



At LDVG we use the hashtag **#charityfamily**, and that is because relationships are at the heart of everything we do. Our members, volunteers, Board members, staff, partners and community matter to us. Because of this, we are always looking to adapt and improve on what we offer.

new ways of using our building. We welcomed two new staff members, in our Finance Officer and Admin Assistant, both of whom have enhanced our team.

This year we were delighted to welcome: two new minibuses to our transport fleet; new activities and services in our Craft Group, Armed Forces Community Group and NHS Community Car service; and



Finance is always at the forefront of our minds, and last year we were successful in securing funding to continue and expand our activities and services. We made a concerted effort to expand our self-generated income in the form of fundraising, corporate donors, transport and room hire which resulted in increases across all of these areas.



Charity Manager's Reflections

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our staff team who continue to go above and beyond in their work, and this has never been so apparent than during the lockdown. Also to our Board who not only keep our strategic direction relevant and on track, but support us in so many other ways.



Lastly a very deserved thank you to our volunteers - they truly are

the heart of our charity. Without them our work would not be possible, and they make our world a much brighter place. Their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to helping their community is truly commendable and inspires us all to do better and we are forever grateful for each and every one of them.



The next year is going to be very different, with challenges to overcome in how we deliver our services. But we are determined to adapt and change to continue to meet the needs of those who need us most. In light of this, we have adapted year two of our Business Plan which you can read on our web site. I hope you enjoy reading the following report which will highlight some of our successes over the past year.

- Sandra McCrory,
Charity Manager

Our Awards

VASLan Awards



Our volunteers had a fabulous night at this year's VASLan awards ceremony, held at the Radstone hotel, sweeping the board with awards! Jim McCann and Quintin Cassidy won 'Volunteer of the Year' as the driving team who support the South Lanarkshire Council Gypsy Traveller Education Group. Jim and Quintin work tirelessly to make sure these young people get to school which means a lot of early rises for them and driving in all conditions.

Next up was Cailean Stillie who won 'Young Volunteer of the Year'. Cailean volunteers at LDVG with our Lunch Clubs, with The Machan Trust, and is the leading force behind StillMac Productions and now additionally with Sparks Connections.

Spark Connections are a film and animation SCIO working with young adults with additional support needs.

Last but certainly not least, Betty Carnihan won 'Long-Serving Volunteer of the Year'. Betty has been volunteering with LDVG for over 23 years and has proven to be an invaluable volunteer to us during this time. Her unwavering commitment, enthusiasm and zest for life makes her a true inspiration to all and she is always available to help out at the drop of a hat.

AGE Scotland

Our shopping bus service, which serves the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw communities, was presented with a 'Certificate of Commendation' for partnership work from AGE Scotland. This bus service was highlighted as a priority for the area through the Our Place Our Plan community consultation. Working with the community group and Community Links, we ran a very successful pilot which was then able to secure further funding from Smarter Places Smarter Choices to continue and expand. AGE Scotland felt this was an excellent example of partnership working meeting the needs of the community.



AGE Scotland Volunteer of the Year



AGE Scotland were due to announce and present the award for 'Volunteer of the Year' at their AGM in Glasgow earlier this year. Unfortunately due to COVID, the AGM had to be cancelled and the award ceremony postponed. However, we are delighted to take this opportunity to announce that this award has indeed been won by our very own Betty Carnihan! Considering Betty has never won anything before in her life - she has had a very successful year when it comes to awards!

“ I was **overwhelmed** the day I came into the office and everyone sang congratulations. I feel very **privileged and honoured** to receive the AGE Scotland Volunteer of the Year Award. It was very disappointing that the award ceremony was cancelled because I had not told any of my family or friends that I had won.

- Betty Carnihan

”

“ Our volunteers certainly know how to stand out in a crowd. What else could you expect from this amazing group of people, I am so proud of each and every one of them, who are **all unique in their own special way**. What an unfortunate place this would be without them.

- Ann Nisbet, Volunteer Coordinator

”

Our Newest Board Member

We asked our newest board member, Hazel McKay, some questions about herself and why she decided to join the LDVG Board.

Tell us a bit about yourself . Who are you? What do you do for a living?

I am Hazel McKay. I am 36 years old. I am married and have an 18 year old step-daughter. I currently work as a Senior Operations Manager in the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service. I perform a key operational role at a senior level, working closely with colleagues and the Judiciary to deliver excellent service across Tribunals Operations. I take a proactive role in managing change and the effective performance of the operations teams I am responsible for, in response to service and legislative demands. I have line management responsibilities for approximately 60 staff and foster close working links with a range of key stakeholders, including the Judiciary and Government officials.



What were your reasons for joining the Board as a Trustee?

I heard about the charity, and the role, via Facebook. I had been looking for the right Trustee position to come along for a while, and then a member of my family shared the important work of LDVG. When the Trustee role became available, I enquired about it, and was lucky enough to be chosen to join the board. I wanted to find a charity that aligned with the values and vision that I am passionate about, and LDVG matched that. Personally, I think this is a great way to give back to the community, to feel like I can help make a difference, share skills and knowledge, and to learn new skills which can assist me in developing my personal and career goals.

Why did you choose to join the Board of LDVG?

Once I heard more about the work of LDVG, and witnessed how the amazing work of the team and volunteers really impacts the community, I knew this is where I wanted to be. I felt I had a skill set that would be valuable to the Board of LDVG, and I could help make a difference. I am also dedicated to the vision of the charity, and I am focused on using my skills to contribute to the successful development and growth of LDVG.

How have you found your first year as a trustee?

My first year has been great. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know the members of the LDVG Board and Charity Manager. They have been so friendly and welcoming to me. I have met members of the wider team and have had the opportunity to meet some of those who use the vital services provided and supported by the charity. I was really nervous to start off with, but everyone has welcomed me and made me feel like part of the team. I have taken part in many Board meetings now, where I have helped make decisions on various matters, attended an AGM, various events the charity has run, and even taken part in raising some funds too.

Any particular highlights?

Yes, there have been a few. My first board meeting was so interesting, getting to hear more about the work of the charity, and getting to meet everyone and find out about them and their roles within LDVG. Secondly, working with the team and hearing about how all of the staff and volunteers responded to help the community, and still do, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What are you looking forward to next as a Trustee?

I am looking forward to continuing to support the LDVG Board and team during the COVID-19 pandemic, and hopefully getting back into some sort of normality. We have been doing well with our virtual Board meetings, but it would be nice to see each other in person, safely, soon! I would also like to meet more people and hear how LDVG impacts on them personally. If you see me at an event, please feel free to come and have a chat with me.

Transport Report

Thanks to our funders we were able to purchase two new FlexiLite minibuses, with built in hydraulic tail lifts which are essential for individuals who have mobility issues and are unable to safely and securely use the low access side step. This has been a great benefit to our Lunch Club members and various outside groups with disabled members. As the buses are FlexiLite this allows them to be driven on a normal car licence.



Our Community Transport was awarded **£46,456** funding from SPT to help cover the running costs of the transport service during 2019/20. Councillor and SPT Chair, Dr. Martin Bartos, was delighted to visit our community centre and had this to say:

“Community transport ensures people **stay connected** to their communities, **reducing feelings of loneliness and social isolation.**”

This year we launched a Community Car scheme to access medical appointments, and we are continuing the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Shopping Bus, visiting various supermarkets and shopping destinations each week and giving the people in the area access to a wider range of options.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

It's been such a busy year, I hardly know where to begin!

We've had another fabulous year packed full of new ideas both complimenting and adding to our current range of activities and services. Our volunteers, as always, have played a huge part in the development of our organisation and their constant friendly, supportive and committed attitude has enabled us to continue to grow in the community.

We at LDVG always strive to improve the way our services and activities are delivered, and this includes streamlining our admin and finance department. We are training on a new database system which will be fully operational by the end of the year and this will enable us to update, record, and access information more easily. A new accounts system is also in the pipeline which will enhance our finance and reporting procedures. The introduction of a quarterly newsletter, full of information and pictures about recent events, is sent out to volunteers and members, keeping everyone up to date with what's going on at LDVG.



Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Our services have remained the same, but numbers have increased for Handy person job requests and Call Line registration. This has led to Call Line being extended to include both morning and afternoon calls and a full complement of willing volunteers has been recruited to cover the slots.

Our activity group memberships continue to grow with more people discovering the popular and diverse classes we offer and during the year we introduced two new groups which have both attracted good interest and membership from the community.

We realise the importance and benefits of intergenerational work in the community and were pleased to welcome visits from the children at Happy Feet Nursery to our Gardening Group workshop in the summer. Our Lunch



Club members were thoroughly entertained at Christmas by Happy Feet Nursery and Machanhill Primary School children who delivered a fantastic concert of Christmas songs in the "Sing a Song for Santa" scheme.



Our new Craft Group started as an extension of the Gardening Group and soon attracted sufficient members to allow it to stand alone. Islay MacNab is the volunteer leader for this group and her knowledge and enthusiasm for the job has led the group forward, allowing them to experience a variety of crafts both old and new.

Our second new venture was for veterans in the community and our thanks go to Doug from the Age Scotland's Veterans Project for his advice and assistance in helping us prepare for and establish this new group. Their name, 'Armed Forces Community Group' was chosen by the members themselves and after meeting a few times to create a proposed format, enjoy a few lunches and informative presentations from dedicated organisations, a Launch Day was arranged for March 2020. We were extremely disappointed when the launch had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 but are confident of a great response when the restrictions are lifted, and we can re-arrange this important event.



Volunteers are the backbone of LDVG and during the last year we recruited several new volunteers, in a variety of posts, and as an introduction to our organisation, they were invited to attend our essential Induction and Health and Safety training courses where they were able to meet fellow volunteers and find out more about LDVG, our services, aims and objectives. We also offered optional training opportunities to all volunteers, old and new, including Food Hygiene, Dementia and one unique training experience called - Body Boosting Bingo. This training was certainly different and our four volunteers and two staff who took part, after the initial shock, said they thoroughly enjoyed the course and were keen to share this exercise experience with members.



Volunteer Coordinator's Report

We have had a variety of fundraisers during the year which have been fully supported by volunteers and members. Our regular Summer and Christmas Coffee Morning and Plant Sale attracted lots of visitors, promoting our services while raising a considerable amount of money. We supported events in the community by joining in the Gala Day Celebrations, by hosting a stall at the Christmas Market, collection days in the local Asda and providing a sales table at the VASLan Third Sector Forum event in December. Our walking group held their annual sponsored walk in Millport and combined a thoroughly enjoyable day out while also raising a substantial amount of money.



A total of **£7,656** was raised by fundraising efforts!

None of the above would be possible without our Volunteers, who continually surprise me with their kindness, generosity and dedication.

A fabulous Christmas Party (in February), letters and cards of thanks and special recognition during volunteer's week all go towards showing our volunteers how much they are valued and appreciated and we thank them for all the time and effort they so readily give to help others.

- Ann Nisbet, Volunteer Coordinator



Activities and Services



Call Line

Our Call Line is a telephone service with volunteers making wellbeing calls to people all across the Lanarkshire area who really benefit from this contact. These calls are available Monday to Friday, mornings and afternoons. They can be for a simple check-up to make sure all is well or for a blether.

12,319 calls made this year!

“ I live on my own and I don't get people in or go out to talk to people. When someone calls me, **it's just great to hear someone's voice**. The volunteers are **very friendly and chatty**. They take the time to speak to me when I'm feeling down and **always have time for me**. ”



Genealogy Group

This weekly group is an opportunity for our members to explore their family tree with the help of our experienced volunteers. One member of the group managed to trace her family back as far as 1613 - over 400 years ago!

269 attendances this year!



Walking Group

Our Walking Group is a chance for likeminded members to socialise and explore beautiful outdoor areas around Scotland. Our group has travelled from Chatelherault Country Park to the Falkirk Wheel and many places in between.

443 attendances this year!



Gardening Group

Our Gardening Group is the place to be for sharing gardening techniques and a love of green spaces. Be it making decorative arrangements, arranging technique demonstrations or tending to their allotment at Hareleeshill, this group is always busy.

208 attendances this year!

Craft Group

Starting in October of 2019, our Craft Group can be found working away on crafts from card making to table decorations to flower arrangements.

27 attendances this year!



Activities and Services

Exercise Classes

LDVG's Exercise Classes are a great opportunity for our members to work off the cakes from the Tea Dance with a bit of light exercise! These are fun and engaging classes led by an experienced instructor.

497 attendances this year!



Football Classics

At our monthly Football Classics group, our members share their love of the game by reminiscing on games gone by, talking about their own experiences and enjoying some Bovril with a pastry (or two!).

54 attendances this year!



“ She doesn't engage in much conversation, but she **loves the routine and the company**. Her life focuses around that Lunch Club and **she gets so much** from the day trips and Christmas dinners. ”



Lunch Club

LDVG hosts three weekly Lunch Clubs, overseeing another four at local primary schools. These allow members to socialise and tuck into a two-course lunch. The Lunch Club members also enjoy activities such as card games, quizzes and bingo. Transport to the Lunch Clubs on the premises is available for those who need it.

3,169 attendances this year!

Tea Dance

At the monthly Tea Dance you will find our members chatting away over tea, coffee, sandwiches and delicious home baked cakes before enjoying a whirl around the dance floor to the live entertainment!

253 attendances this year!



“ I really enjoy going to the Tea Dances every month and **seeing my friends!** I think that the Tea Dance does well for people. ”



Handyperson Service

Our free Handyperson Service involves our volunteers making home visits to deal with small, non-emergency, jobs around the house.

105 jobs this year!

Activities and Services

Strutherhill and Birkenshaw Shopping Bus

This is a free service for those in the Strutherhill and Birkenshaw area. Our buses pick up and drop off our members right at their door, allowing them to access shops both locally and further afield!

226 uses this year!



Thursday Night Group

Our Thursday Night Group is where our members come for an evening blether and some games and activities, including bingo.

147 attendances this year!



IT Courses

LDVG offers classes at a variety of skill levels to make sure that you can make the most out of the technology around you.

143 attendances this year!



Armed Forces Community Group

Though still in the early stages, this new group will be a place for those in the community with a connection to the armed forces to come together, meet others and have a bit of banter.



Community Car

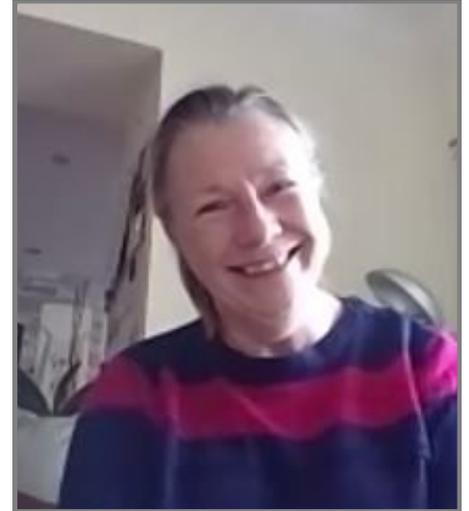
The Community Car scheme aims to provide a free service for those in the community who are unable to use public transport or their own transport to travel to non-emergency NHS appointments.



Islay's Story

Islay's Journey

My husband Neill and I started life in Rutherglen and then moved to the East coast, spending seven years in Aberdeen before moving to Taynuilt near Oban, where we spent 24 happy years. Neill was made redundant and we bought a post office in the area, before Neill became ill when he developed MS, Alzheimers and Epilepsy. I took over the running of the business and while Neill was content to sit with me all day, I was aware that getting out and about and mingling with other people would be more beneficial for him. I began to realise that I needed to have more of a support network. Our location was too rural, and we needed to be closer to family, so we sold the business and moved to Larkhall to be near our daughters. Three years later, we still didn't really know anyone and although I saw a few posters when out and about, I had limited pedestrian outreach because of Neill and then The Carers Network gave us a contact for LDVG. I went down to their premises and said, 'I need a friend' and that's when I met Ann (Volunteer Coordinator). As Ann described the services and activities that were available at LDVG, it began to dawn on me that I had met someone in the street, recently, visiting the shops collecting raffle prizes for an event. This lady, who turned out to be Suzy, an active member at LDVG, was gushing about the Lunch Clubs, groups and activities available. I hadn't thought at the time, that it would be suitable for myself and Neill, but it rang bells about someone who got a lot out of this group.



What Being a Member Means to Me



We joined the Monday Lunch Club and although only 60 at that time, I thoroughly enjoyed chatting to people of a similar age and older. It was good for Neill to have other people about and he felt comfortable as no-one expected too much from him as he sat and enjoyed his lunch. It was a great break for me, getting out of the house, meeting new people and having a good blether. It felt strange being on the receiving end rather than helping as I had previously volunteered with other groups. Being in the building introduced me to other interests, as there were posters everywhere advertising regular activities. I decided to join the Gardening Group next and that's when things began to spiral for me. On my first day at the gardening group, Sandra (the lead volunteer) and I hit it off immediately. While pottering about and

tidying up, Sandra talked about her involvement with LDVG and mentioned the newly formed Craft Group. Having heard from Sandra that I had dabbled in various crafts over the years and was keen to join the group, Ann approached me to ask if I would be interested in becoming a volunteer.

It's just nice to be able to get in touch with people in a new area, in a friendly environment, to feel welcome and to feel there is something out there for people. Now that I've found LDVG, I have definitely benefited from their influence.

What Being a Volunteer Means to Me

Signing up as a volunteer made me feel even more a part of the group. My life had been closing in around me and it was down to just family connections, whereas before, I was immersed in the many situations that helping people involved. I had left a community where I had lots of friends and a constant connection with other people. Volunteering and leading the craft group has given me the chance to stretch myself again. I want to develop this group to ensure members can enjoy a variety of crafts in a relaxed environment, whether it's learning new skills or working on their own projects. I am challenged by the diverse interests of our group members, ranging from flower arranging, to card making, to stone painting and want to make room for everyone. Happily, I can already see the group beginning to take shape.



Islay's Story

My volunteering role expanded again when I was asked to help at the Monday Lunch Club, covering for absence. Neill and I would normally be there anyway, so it worked well for us. I was able to help in the kitchen and still join Neill at the table for lunch. Gradually I found myself helping at other Lunch Clubs and events and through this involvement, I have made many new friends among staff, members and other volunteers. It became apparent that while Neill was happy to come to the Lunch Club, he was only comfortable if I was with him. He wasn't interested in joining other groups but because he knew I would be nearby in a building that was familiar to him, he was more content to stay at home. I had camera's installed so that I could monitor him at home and that allowed me to relax and enjoy the friendly company of others, while attending activities. We carried on at the Lunch Club until Christmas but afterwards, Neill decided not to come back. I was surprised he agreed to come along in the first place, but pleased he did, as it gave me a chance to join in.



She's a **real life angel** that makes my life easy!

- Laura Downs, Activities Assistant

Twiddling my thumbs and retirement doesn't work for me, I need to be out and about with other people. I am a doer and if I can help and support people, that's great. Being part of this group has restarted my life, personally, and helping others has, in its way helped me. I'm now beginning to feel part of this community. Bumping into people in the street and being recognised, knowing that I am contributing, and my work is of benefit to the community, is a really nice feeling. Rather than being just a stuck at home carer and available babysitter for family, I feel my life is more balanced. It's beneficial for me to have more personal time, to be part of a team and doing other things out with my immediate circle.

What Being a Part of LDVG Means to Me

Being 25 years old, this organisation is still fairly young, and although it has grown and expanded over the last few years in particular, there is still room for more growth. It is very well organised with a good internal structure and runs efficiently to benefit the community. You don't just sit on your laurels, content with what is there, opinions are sought and you always go above and beyond to try and improve and add to the services provided. You're always looking forward, adjusting and re-arranging, incorporating new ideas. For example, the new Veterans group - a hall full of folk, delighted to be sitting chatting together and having food put in front of them as well, whereas before, I don't think they would be in touch with each other. I'm very impressed.

What's Next

At the very end of the year I was asked to become a Call Line Volunteer. Having experience as a community nurse prepared me for this type of role and I jumped at the chance to become part of this service. I recognise how important it is to have a support network and any issues or referrals are passed to Laura (Activities Assistant) to deal with, relieving me of related stress and allowing me to enjoy the connection with the members. I have only just started in the role but already made contact with lots of different people, one of whom is in a similar home situation to myself, caring for a loved one. We have a lot in common, can share stories and this has been of great benefit to both of us. I'm not sure what else is in store for me but am happy to help in any way I can.



I think she's very **young at heart**, it's a pleasure to speak to her. She's always so **upbeat and enthusiastic**.

- what our Call Line members have to say about Islay

What Our Volunteers Say

I enjoy mixing with the community. I am happy to **give something back** while I am physically able to help. It is encouraging when members tell me **how much I have helped** and how they appreciate the service on offer.



Thoroughly enjoy it! It's got me out the house when I wouldn't be otherwise. Everybody's been **very welcoming**.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months being a member of this exceptional group and **look forward to many more years** of being a small cog in this caring team.



It's a pleasure to volunteer with LDVG as the staff and other volunteers are always available to help you in any way they can.

Thought is given to the activities available to try and encompass a wide selection of interests to accommodate the group members. **New ideas** are being considered and tried throughout the year, benefiting current members and encouraging new ones to come along.

I feel as if I am an **accepted part of this community** now. Members come into the centre, smile at me and lots of them now know me by name. To hear members (and staff) saying "thank you" for something I have carried out as a volunteer **makes me very happy and also very proud**.

Didn't know anything about the group, but now feel **proud to be part of LDVG** as it gives so much to the community.

Being an active member of this group **allows me to improve my and other's life experience**. Everyone has the right to a better quality of life. LDVG provides that.



LDVG **helped me through a hard time** in my life and gave me a **purpose in life** - to help others!

I have been volunteering for a number of years and without LDVG my life would be more empty. **I feel connected to the community and would not be out if not for this**. Volunteering on Call Line has introduced me to lots of new friends. **I feel more confident and more worthwhile**. It gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning.

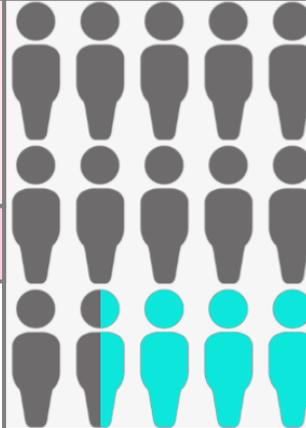


LDVG are very **dedicated to making a difference to their clients**. Always looking for new ideas and ways to include the community and new clients. They have **made me, as a volunteer, very welcome**.

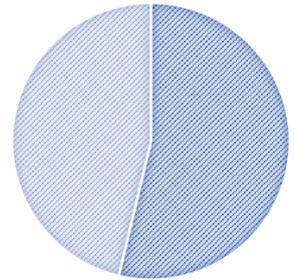
Volunteers - Facts and Figures

The Volunteers of LDVG

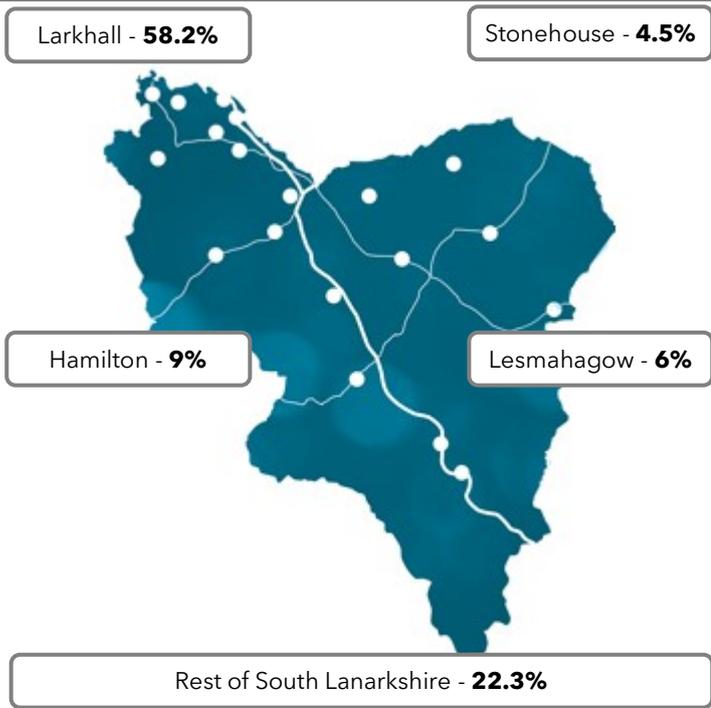
68 wonderful people volunteer for LDVG, with **15** of those volunteers starting in the past year. In the previous year we had **67** total and **16** new volunteers.



32 male and **36** female volunteers.



Where are our volunteers from?



957 minibus journeys

641 last year

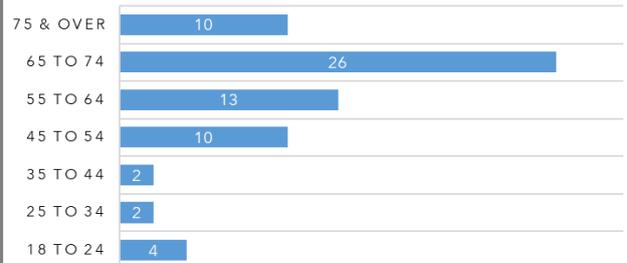


What our volunteers get from volunteering...

- **82%** say it helps them feel valuable
- **71%** think it allows them to share their skills with others
- **88%** feel more connected to their community
- **94%** say they have made new friends
- **76%** say it makes them happy
- **71%** say it has improved their self-worth
- **53%** say it makes them feel positive about their future
- **94%** say it allows them to give something back to their community



OUR VOLUNTEER'S AGE GROUPS



7,578 volunteer hours

8,254 last year

What Our Members Say



Having moved from a close knit community, **LDVG has enabled me to start meeting and belonging to Larkhall and it's people.**

The people that run it are **nice and friendly** and it makes it worthwhile - can't do enough to please us.



The Lunch club is my local community. As I had been working I had lost touch with neighbours and others I knew. It is good to be able to **socialise with everyone** again.

At my age a lot of my friends have passed away so I really value my time at LDVG. It lets me meet new people and **stay involved in the community.**

The Lunch Clubs have helped me meet new people. I am not from Larkhall and spent most of my life elsewhere before moving to Larkhall just under 20 years ago. **I'd be lost without them** and I think a few people would be. It's opened up meeting folk. It's been a Godsend.

At my age a lot of my friends have passed away so I really value my time at LDVG and some of the other groups I attend. It lets me meet new people and **stay involved in the community.**

From where she was to where she is, it's such an improvement. That's thanks to the volunteer group. She's never seen as any different and is just **fully accepted into the group.**



LDVG is a busy, **friendly organisation.** Volunteers and staff are always willing to help.

It's been an eyeopener! Friendly place to come to. I enjoy going on trips. It has **improved my mental health.**

I've found since moving to Larkhall that **the people here are absolutely brilliant,** especially your volunteers.



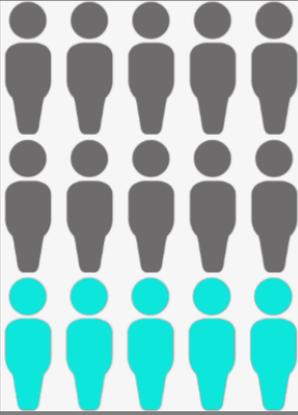
I'll never stop coming to the lunch clubs. I just love going to the lunch clubs on a Thursday, I see my friends and the volunteers are just great. **I'm very happy.**



Attending the walking group and tea dances has **made my life a lot richer.**

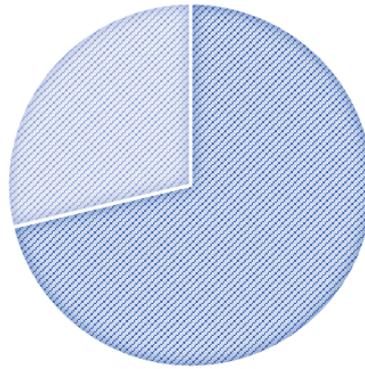
Members - Facts and Figures

The Members of LDVG



LDVG now has **304** members, up from **207** last year. This means that **31%** of our members have joined in the last year!

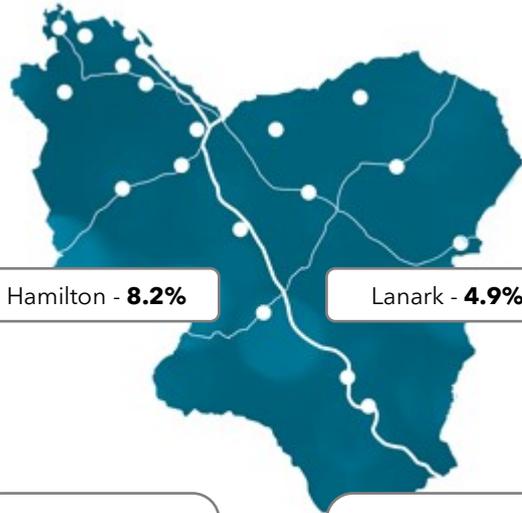
216 of our members are female and **87** are male.



Where are our members from?

Larkhall - **62.5%**

Stonehouse - **5.3%**



Hamilton - **8.2%**

Lanark - **4.9%**

Rest of South Lanarkshire - **11.9%**

Outside of South Lanarkshire - **7.2%**

AGE GROUP	TOTAL
44 & under	4
45 to 54	15
55 to 64	49
65 to 74	86
75 to 84	76
85 & over	49
Unknown	28

2,041
Activity attendances



What our members believe being a part of LDVG gives them...

- **95%** say it has enabled them to make new friends and reconnect with old ones
- **74%** feel more connected to their community
- **76%** feel that they are less lonely
- **62%** feel better about themselves
- **67%** are now feeling more confident
- **81%** say that LDVG makes them happy





Join Us

Interested in volunteering? Talk to us. LDVG offers a diverse range of volunteering opportunities that can work with your skills and around your schedule.

Interested in becoming a trustee? Our Board of Trustees is vital to LDVG and you could work with us to help steer LDVG towards its goals.

Help Us

The generosity of those who donate to LDVG is key to allowing our services and activities to continue. In addition to our annual fundraising events and our collection tins in local businesses, you can donate via our Facebook page or any of the fundraising platforms listed below.

Contact Us

You can reach us by phone, email or post using the details below. Staff working hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

- **Phone:** 01698 888893
- **Email:**
 - **General** - admin@ldvg.org.uk
 - **Bus Hire** - transport@ldvg.org.uk
 - **Room Hire** - finance@ldvg.org.uk
- **Address:** Registry House, 55 Victoria Street, Larkhall, ML9 2BL

Follow Us

Please follow us on social media or visit our website for our most up to date news.



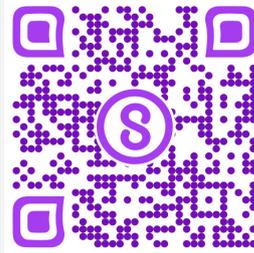
Larkhall & District Volunteer Group



@LarkhallVolGrp



www.ldvg.org.uk



Sustainably

This app allows you to donate by rounding up your online purchases or by setting up monthly donations.



Just Giving

This page can be used for all donations or to start your own fundraising event for LDVG!



Easy Fundraising

This allows you to make a small donation to LDVG as you shop online at no extra cost to you!



Amazon Smile

With this program, Amazon donates 0.5% of the cost of eligible purchases to LDVG!