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Supporting our community since 1994



A NEW CHAPTER FOR HARELEESHILL

Our Hareleeshill Lunch Club members were absolutely thrilled to hear they were getting a fresh start—with a brand new venue and some exciting changes to their weekly menu!

We're delighted to share that the club is now a regular fixture at the Hareleeshill Community Hub, where members can continue to come together, catch up with friends, and enjoy a hearty lunch every week in a bright and welcoming space.

And the good news doesn't stop there! Their meals are now being lovingly prepared by none other than Mr T and his talented team at Heart of Africa. With delicious new options and a rotating menu, our members can look forward to a bit of variety—and maybe even a culinary surprise or two!

We hope everyone is settling in nicely and enjoying both the new venue and the tasty new dishes. Here's to many more weeks of great food, good company, and full stomachs!



A GARDEN GIFT

We're thrilled to share that McConnell has generously donated £750 to help us spruce up our garden with a brand-new patio set and two lovely benches!

McConnell, known across the UK for their work in refurbishment, modernisation, retrofit, energy efficiency, and planned maintenance, are currently working with South Lanarkshire Council. As part of their Community Benefit Commitments, they look to support local initiatives—and we're so grateful they chose LDVG!

They spotted our gardening furniture request on the South Lanarkshire Council's Community Wishlist, and the rest is blooming history!

Their Regional Managing Director, John Hepburn, said:

"We are delighted to support Larkhall and District Volunteer Group in transforming their garden into a place for the community to relax and enjoy."

Thank you, John and the whole team at McConnell! Your support means the world to us and our members.

Let the relaxing garden chats and sunny cuppas commence!



EGG-CELENT EASTER



We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Henry Dorricott Funeral Services for their generous donation of Easter Eggs.

These thoughtful gifts were distributed to as many people as possible – and every one of them was absolutely delighted!

A special thank you as well to Fraser Stewart for delivering the treats and helping bring a smile to our members this Easter.

Your kindness truly made a difference.

MAKING WAVES OF GRATITUDE



While we appreciate our volunteers every single day of the year, June gives us a special chance to celebrate them in style during Volunteers Week—and this year, we dove right in with the theme “Under the Sea” which ties in nicely with it being our Pearl Anniversary (celebrating 30 years of LDVG).

Why? Because our volunteers are truly the pearls in our LDVG ocean—precious, irreplaceable, and full of sparkle.

A lot of heart (and more than a little creativity!) went into decorating our building in their honour. Our feature wall transformed into a vibrant underwater scene, complete with volunteers’ faces swimming among the sea life. We had submarines representing



our transport service, a treasure chest full of food symbolising our community fridge, and plenty of hidden sea-themed Easter eggs waiting to be spotted!

One of the most touching parts was our “Ravine of Respect” – a space where members could leave heartfelt notes of thanks, reflecting the powerful impact our volunteers have.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without a proper feast—our special lunch event (which you can read all about on the next page!) was the perfect way to raise a toast to the people who make everything we do possible. A huge thanks to Sky Cares for supporting this memorable day.

And to all our volunteers—thank you from the bottom of our oceanic hearts. Without your dedication and support, LDVG would not be able to provide all our activities and services currently available.

SKY REALLY CARES

This quarter, we've been absolutely spoiled—not with just one, but two fabulous lunch parties, all thanks to the generous support from our wonderful friends at Sky Cares.

Easter Fun, Friendship, and a Feast to Remember!

Back in April, we brought a springtime sparkle to our activity groups with a special Easter event—and what a day it was! Members from our Genealogy, Garden, Craft, and Sporting Memories groups came together for a fantastic afternoon full of fun, food, and friendship.

After enjoying a mouth-watering lunch, the Easter spirit truly took over. From themed games to brain-teasing quizzes, the laughter echoed and the competition got delightfully egg-citing. Several lucky winners walked away with prizes—including a stash of Easter eggs, of course!

A big shout out to Karen from Sky who kindly joined us to volunteer on the day—your support made a real difference, and we loved having you with us!



A Tea Party Fit for Our Volunteer Pearls!

Our members have been enjoying the ever-popular Sky Tea Parties for quite some time now—but during Volunteers' Week, we flipped the script and treated our amazing volunteers to a special tea party of their very own!

What better way to celebrate the heart and soul of LDVG than with sandwiches, sweet treats, and a whole lot of gratitude? Once again, we had a delicious spread of sandwiches, wraps, snacks, and cakes that had everyone going back for seconds (and thirds—we're not judging!).

To keep the fun flowing, we hosted LDVG-themed quizzes with a twist—this year's "Under the Sea" theme brought waves of laughter, a few puzzled faces, and plenty of team spirit. And yes, there were prizes... because what's a quiz without a bit of friendly competition? Thanks to Sky, we had an ocean of goodies ready for the winners!

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers—you give so much, and it was a pleasure to give a little something back.

These special tea parties brought our members and volunteers together enjoying delicious food, plenty of laughter, and some truly heart warming moments. From catching up with old friends to making new ones, the joy in the room was undeniable. It's amazing what a shared meal can do and even more amazing when it's made possible by such thoughtful contributions.

A huge thank you to Sky Cares for helping us create these special moments. their kindness continues to nourish more than just appetites – it feeds connection, conversation, and community spirit.



UNDERSTANDING THE UNSEEN

Working within the community means connecting with people from all walks of life—and that includes many who may be living with hidden struggles. Mental health issues aren't always visible, but their impact can be profound. That's why it's so important for us, as a team, to better understand and recognise the signs.

Thanks to the support of the NHS, our staff and volunteers recently took part in a dedicated mental health awareness training session. The session equipped us with valuable knowledge, practical tools, and the confidence to offer more thoughtful, informed support to those who may be quietly facing challenges.

We're incredibly grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow—because supporting our community means seeing the whole person, not just what's on the surface.



SUMMER, SCONES & SMILES

This year's Spring Coffee Morning was another heart-warming reminder of just how special our community is. Friends old and new came together to raise funds for LDVG, and what a brilliant day it turned out to be!

Guests enjoyed endless cups of tea and coffee, all perfectly paired with a mountain of delicious home-baking lovingly prepared by our amazing volunteers (who we're convinced must be part cake-wizard). The hall buzzed with chatter, laughter, and the sweet smell of fresh flowers from our plant sale, featuring gorgeous planters crafted by our very own Social Enterprise group. The scent filled the building and brought a little bit of summer indoors!



Our famous tombola stall didn't disappoint—packed with fantastic prizes, including generous donations and vouchers from local businesses. The excitement was real as people crossed their fingers and hoped their number was up!

Our regular plant board competition, with the chance to win a stunning, flower-filled planter, as well as our main raffle, offering a wonderful range of goodies caught everyone's eye.

Adding an extra special touch to the day, we welcomed external stallholders who showcased their handmade creations—from crafts to gifts – all full of personality and passion.

Despite a few challenges (yes, we noticed we shared the date with other events in Larkhall—timing, eh?), we're thrilled to announce we raised a fantastic total of £1152.75!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who supported us—those who attended, donated, volunteered, or simply cheered us on from afar. Your kindness and energy made this event what it was. It's true what they say – it takes a village... and we're lucky to have the best one.

RAIN, PAIN & 14.5 MILES OF DETERMINATION

This year, four brave members of our staff team laced up their boots, donned their tartan, and took on the mighty challenge of the Kiltwalk Big Stroll—a whopping 14.5 miles of grit, hills, and (of course) good old Scottish weather.

Despite the dreary skies and the persistent drizzle, our team powered through with determination, soggy socks, and smiles that didn't quit. Their reward? A shiny Kiltwalk medal, a few blisters (probably), and the admiration of everyone at LDVG!



Meanwhile, not to be outdone, our wonderful Walking Group took on their own sponsored walk over in Millport – a slightly sunnier affair with scenic views, a charming ferry ride, and lots of laughs along the way. They may not have tackled 14.5 miles, but they raised spirits and funds – and even left behind one of our painted LDVG rocks to spread some love across the sea!



Together, both groups helped raise a grand total of £2,009.76. for LDVG!

To everyone who took part, supported, donated, or cheered from the side lines—thank you. You are part of something amazing, your input made a difference, and we are beyond proud. Congratulations – you absolutely smashed it!

VASLAN CELEBRATION



As part of Volunteer Week, we were thrilled to be invited by Vaslan to join in a special day of celebration – and what a lovely afternoon it was!

With cakes, refreshments, and fun activities, the event was a fantastic opportunity to show our appreciation for the incredible work volunteers do. This year's theme, "Flying the Flag for Volunteers," truly captured the spirit of the day.

It was a real pleasure to connect with volunteers from so many different organisations and celebrate the difference they make in our communities.

A big thank you to Vaslan for hosting such a heartwarming and joyful event – and of course, to all the volunteers who give their time so generously.



MPS VISIT LOCAL GROUPS AHEAD OF ELECTION

In the lead-up to the local election, we were pleased to welcome Members of Parliament to visit us—not once, but twice—at their own request.

Their first stop was our Hareleeshill Lunch Club, where they had the opportunity to hear directly from local residents about the issues that matter most. It was a valuable session where attendees shared concerns, asked questions, and voiced their opinions on a range of local topics.

The MPs then visited our Armed Services Community Group, joined by Paul Sweeney MSP, who also serves as the veteran spokesperson. This visit gave our veterans and service members a platform to speak up, ask questions, and offer their perspectives – just like our Lunch Club members.

Both visits were a fantastic chance for our community to engage in open and meaningful dialogue with elected representatives. We're proud to provide spaces where local voices are heard loud and clear!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



SPORTING MEMORIES:

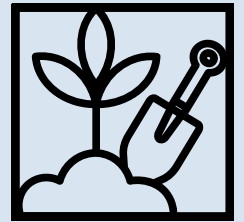
We're on the lookout for a friendly and enthusiastic volunteer to help support our Sporting Memories sessions. This role involves leading group discussions, arranging games, and helping with fun activities that spark conversation and connection.

COMMUNITY GARDENS:

Got a passion for gardening (or just don't mind a bit of mud)? We're also looking for a volunteer to help oversee our garden beds at Larkhall Community Gardens.

You'll help grow fruit and vegetables that go straight back into our community—used in our lunch clubs, community café, community fridge, and even shared with our members and volunteers.

If either of these roles sounds like a good fit for you, please get in touch. A little of your time could make a big difference!



IN MEMORIAM

This year, we've had to say goodbye to some cherished members of our LDVG family. It is with heavy hearts that we remember:

Jim Herriot, Patsy Turner, William Thomson, Claude Lambie, Catherine Guiri & Agnes McGarrity.

Each of them brought something special to our community—whether it was their kindness, humour, wisdom, or simply their presence. They will be deeply missed by friends, staff, and all those who shared time with them at our groups and activities.

Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones. May their memories continue to bring comfort and warmth to all who knew them.

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of one of our long-standing volunteers, **Brian McWatt.**

Brian had been a dedicated part of the LDVG family for over eight years, generously giving his time, energy, and passion to lead our Walking Group on countless adventures. From the shores of Millport to the seaside of Largs and the scenic routes of Peebles, Brian's calm guidance and friendly spirit made every walk something to look forward to.

More than just a volunteer, Brian was a friend to many and a true champion of community spirit. His kindness, humour, and steady presence will be deeply missed by everyone at LDVG—staff, volunteers, and members alike.

Our thoughts and sincere condolences go out to Brian's family and loved ones. His legacy of warmth and dedication will walk with us always.

SCAM AWARENESS

In 2025, scams continue to evolve, with a notable increase in the use of AI to make them more sophisticated and believable. Common scams include phishing and smishing (using AI-generated text), AI-generated images and videos, and fake cloned voices. Additionally, scams related to package tracking, fake travel websites, and Real ID deadlines are also prevalent. Here's what to be cautious of:

AI-enhanced emails and texts:

Scammers are using AI to create more convincing and natural-sounding phishing emails and text messages.

Fake websites:

AI makes it easier for scammers to create professional-looking websites that mimic legitimate businesses, leading to scams like fake travel websites or online shopping.

AI-Generated Content:

Scammers are using AI to create fake social media profiles, ads, and deepfake videos to promote fake products, charities, or investments.

Cloned voices:

AI can be used to create fake phone calls, including those impersonating family members (grandparent scam).

Other Scams:

Package tracking scams:

Scammers send fraudulent messages pretending to be from legitimate delivery companies, tricking recipients into clicking malicious links or providing personal information.

Fake travel websites:

These lure users with "too good to be true" prices or experiences, often demanding payment upfront.

Real ID scams:

With the deadline approaching for Real ID requirements for air travel, scammers are likely to target individuals with phishing attempts, pretending to be from DMV or government agencies.

Tax scams:

Scammers may impersonate the IRS or other government agencies, offering fake tax refunds or threatening with penalties to extract personal information.

Fake job scams:

Scammers offer fake job opportunities, often requiring applicants to pay fees upfront.

Winter fuel scams:

Scammers target vulnerable individuals with fake offers or demands for payment related to winter fuel.

One-time passcode scams:

Scammers trick victims into sharing one-time passcodes, potentially gaining access to their bank accounts.

Mobile malware scams:

Scammers use malicious software to steal personal information or control devices.

Call-forwarding scams:

Scammers redirect phone calls to their own devices, making it difficult for victims to contact legitimate entities.

Cost of living scams:

Scammers exploit the economic hardship of the cost of living by offering fake relief programs or services.

Safe account scams:

Scammers use social engineering techniques to trick individuals into believing their accounts are compromised and to provide personal information or money.

Fitness tracker scams:

Scammers use cute images and promises of earnings to lure people into providing personal information or money.

Sweepstakes and lottery scams:

Scammers promise large winnings but require victims to pay upfront fees.

Grandparent scams:

Scammers impersonate family members to request money or personal information.

Sweetheart scams:

Scammers use romantic pretenses to lure victims into providing financial or personal information.

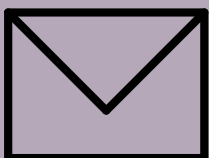
Telemarketing phone scams:

Scammers use deceptive tactics to sell products or services.

Tech support scams:

Scammers pretend to be tech support and trick victims into paying for unnecessary services or providing access to their devices.

Contact details for Trading Standards Business and Communities Team:
01698 454899 / consumer.enquiries@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



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

Twitter

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

Instagram

[@LarkhallVolGrp](https://www.instagram.com/LarkhallVolGrp)

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

LDVG Website

www.ldvg.org.uk

LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/company/11639116

HOW YOU CAN GIVE TO LDVG

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

You can 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 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.