

**DRUMOIG RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE 2024 AGM**

It seems like only a few months since our last AGM, but I look forward to welcoming members to the AGM, particularly those who are attending for the first time.

With the construction of the new houses being completed it has been nice to see them occupied and I think it has added a certain vibrancy to the community. The "Meet the Neighbours" we hosted last year was very successful, and we hope it will stimulate more interest in community events.

The most regular event for several years has been the weekly "Drop in for a drink" meeting at the hotel on a Friday evening. Pre-covid it was regularly attended by around 30 and there was a great atmosphere. Since Covid, however, numbers have been dwindling and the Committee would welcome suggestions on how it could be reinvigorated. For example, would it make sense to suspend DIFAD over the winter months, with the shorter daylight hours, and perhaps reduce the frequency to, say, once a month?

Pre-Covid there were several other community activities, some of which have been revived, but suggestions for more would be very welcome. For example, regular rambles used to be held but it has only been possible to hold a couple in 2023. Curry and barbecue nights at the hotel have also proved successful in the past, but with the current shortage of chefs and catering staff nationwide, might be a little difficult in 2024. Nature talks and presentations have also been held some years ago, which were well attended and the regular and comprehensive wildlife newsletters, edited by Martin Hepworth, highlight the diversity of wildlife around us. We know that the dynamic of the community has changed over the years, particularly with the welcome addition of, mainly younger, families in the Kirkwood homes, so perhaps a completely fresh approach is needed.

On the subject of younger families, whilst some progress was made on the children's play area, unfortunately it wasn't possible to seed the area before the weather turned. We have no definite information on when work will recommence, but there would be little point in seeding until temperatures have risen consistently and even turfing would require some warmth. No doubt the ground will need to be protected for a while to let the surface get established. We will pass on any information as and when it becomes available.

I would once again like to thank John Cuthbertson for his sterling efforts in renegotiating the gas contact for the Forgan, Comerton and Craigie households. Having achieved a significant price reduction when the contract was last renewed, John was able to negotiate new prices, from August 2023 which, although higher than the exceptionally low previous prices, were well below market rates. Through his efforts the great majority of households have seen their costs kept under control.

Although the Committee membership has been the same for a few years, we will say farewell to Lil Smith, who has decided to stand down after over five years. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank her for her enthusiastic support and valuable input throughout her term. This, of course means that there is a vacancy on the Committee which, at the time of writing, has yet to be filled.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a happy, healthy and successful 2024.

Euan MacGregor  
21 December 2023.