

# MENSTRIE MATTERS

## Spring 2020

### Menstrie Nursery

January saw the opening of the new Menstrie Nursery. Not only is it a move to a new facility but the change also sees the nursery become a stand-alone facility, that offers wrap around childcare from 8am – 6pm.

The opening of the new site comes as The Scottish Government continues its commitment to provide 1140 hours of funded early learning and childcare to all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds.

Staff have thanked children and parents for their patience during the transition period and are delighted that the children have settled so well into their new environment.



The open plan facility is light, bright and full to the brim with exciting new toys and technology which stimulate learning and development. There are exciting plans for the garden and bi-folding doors will help to bring the outdoors, in.

There are a number of stay and play events planned for parents/carers of children already attending the nursery, so everyone can see the exciting new facility. At the time of writing, the nursery still had places available; anyone who would like to find out more about securing a place for their child is welcome to pop in and see the team.

The nursery is quieter after 5pm and staff would be pleased to tell you more.

The nursery can be contacted on 01259 452304.





# COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Sunday 15th March



**Sponsored by Blairmains Farm Shop & Coffee Bothy**

Join in the fun but stay safe by wearing appropriate footwear and clothing and ensure that all children are accompanied by a responsible adult.

**We are planning to meet on Sunday the 15th of March 2020 @10.00am on the Bridge over the Menstrie Burn on Hazel Avenue.**

**Could your community article be here, we would love to hear from you with any village news, articles, diaries and events.  
Email menstriematters01@gmail.com**



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**Opening hours**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9am to 5pm (closed 1pm - 2pm)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am to 1pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9am to 5pm (closed 1pm - 2pm)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9am to 5pm (closed 1pm - 2pm)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am to 5pm (closed 1pm - 2pm)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9am to 12.30pm</b>



## NOVA SCOTIA TRIP

Almost 400 years ago Sir William Alexander 1st Earl of Stirling and resident of Menstrie Castle left these shores and travelled to Canada where he established Scottish colonies throughout Nova Scotia. He was later followed by his son, William, who then settled for a time in Port Royal, Nova Scotia.

In June 2020, five Clackmannanshire young people will be following in the Alexanders footsteps when they join ten girls from Broughton High School, Edinburgh to participate in a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold level canoe expedition to Nova Scotia, Canada.

The expedition will have a joint aim of exploring the life and travels of Sir William Alexander and his son and learning about the rich culture and heritage of Eastern Canada's oldest inhabitants – the Mi'kmaq 1st Nations people. Supported by leaders from the National Outdoor Training Centre at Glenmore Lodge, Bridge 8 Hub Outdoor Centre and Clackmannanshire Council the group will spend 6 days canoeing in some of the best paddling in Atlantic Canada.

Travelling through the backwood wilderness waterways of the Kejimkujik National Park the participants will be using waterways travelled on for thousands of years by the Mi'kmaq. Kejimkujik is the Mi'kmaq word meaning "tired muscles" which I am sure the participants will fully appreciate by the end of their expedition. The group are hoping that during their canoe journey they will have a glimpse of beavers, loons, blue heron and, if really lucky, a sighting of moose.

The group will visit Port Royal and have the opportunity to spend time with young people of their own age from a Mi'Kmaq community who will lead them in a variety of 1st Nations craft workshops.

Over the next 6 months the young people will be working hard preparing for their expedition by honing their canoe skills, increasing their knowledge of 1st aid, navigation and campcraft.

In addition, the group have a commitment to reaching their fundraising target to enable them to participate in this wonderful opportunity.

Anyone wishing further information about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this expedition in particular or can assist with fundraising please contact John Nicolson on 07751644230 or email jnic999@aol.com

Donations can be made directly to our group GoFundMe page at;

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/duke-of-edinburgh-gold-expedition-to-canada?>



\*\*\*\*\*

**NO PILE LEFT BEHIND!**

**SCOOP THE POOP!**  
**THAT MEANS YOU, SOLDIER!**

\*\*\*\*\*

How many times do we see dog poo lying unpicked around our village?

I am asking all dog owners to be responsible and pick up their dogs mess regardless.

Bear in mind that the maximum fine is £1000 with an £80 on the spot fine more likely if you are caught in the act!

**Please** keep your village and play areas clean and tidy

Keep an eye on social media or your next Menstrie Matters for upcoming initiatives

Join us on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** for VE Day Celebrations in the Dumyat Centre 1300-1600

**Bouncy castle for the kids & party races**

**Best 1940s dressed prize**

**Stories from the past**

**Songs from Menstrie Voices**

*Tea, cake & sandwiches will be provided*

### Chair's Letter

You might not be aware but your Community Council Elected member numbers have fallen below the statutory number for operation – what does this mean to you?

Your CC have been responsible for:

Highly impressive Gala Week, Annual Duck Race, Fox Boy, Festive Lights, Cycle Path, Woodland Path & Play Areas, Frog Life Ponds, Hanging Baskets and Flower Beds, Quarterly Menstrie Matters hand delivered, this list is not exhaustive and without the help and support of the village – we may **LOSE it.**

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month for an hour or so in the Dumyat Centre but desperately need new blood to come in and be part of the future.

Full elections are due this September and I would like to see a full team of 14 elected members and of course more input into the Events, Funding and Resilience sub groups. Feel free to pop up and have a chat or contact me to discuss

**Dave Sharp (Chair)**

**Menstriecommunity@gmail.com**

Greetings from the Minister of Menstrie United Free Church of Scotland Rev. Jason Lingiah

I was feeling somewhat blessed in the last couple of weeks having received a couple of personal donations which have really come at the right time with some bills to be paid. It really has helped and is very much appreciate at this time of year when trying to plan ahead for finances as well as thinking about the unplanned emergencies. We often used the word blessed to describe if we have been fortunate or 'lucky' – although I don't believe in luck as everything happens for a reason. Perhaps some of us aren't feeling blessed at all in our lives, but we can always find some good. In the Christian faith, something happened at just the right time to make us blessed. In the Bible we are told that 'at the right time Christ died for us' (Romans 5:6). At just the right time of human need, we are told that Jesus came to take upon himself the wrongdoings of the world – and we are truly blessed.

Our Easter Services, which will explore that theme are as follows:

Palm Sunday – 5 April and Easter Sunday 12 April, both at 10am and Good Friday – 10 April – at 7:30pm. All are welcome to these services.

There will be a coffee morning with children's activities on Monday 6 April from 10am-1pm and there will be a Fun Day on Gala Day as in previous years.

More information can be found in the Alloa Advertiser or on Facebook @menstrieufchurch

With every blessing from all at Menstrie U.F. Church,

Rev. Jason Lingiah

9 Balfour Street, Alloa, FK10 1RU

jasonlingiah@gmail.com

01259 215 278



Could you help in your Community? We need more assistance with a variety of projects;

Tubs and Baskets, Planting, watering and maintenance/Menstrie Castle/ Woodland / Litter Picks / Community Council, Menstrie Matters and loads more. I

If you are a 'doer' not a committee person then we have work for you! Menstriecommunity@gmail.com

## The Forge Coffee shop

Main street, Menstrie, 01259 763202

Why not come in and enjoy some freshly made sandwiches, wraps, toasties or baked potato (gluten free options available), then follow it up with a delicious cake or scone (all made freshly on the premises) and a nice hot coffee or tea.



**Special offers include: hot filled roll (bacon, square sausage, fried egg or scrambled egg) plus a hot drink for £4.25.**



or

**Any of our cakes/scones plus a hot drink for £4  
You have to try Ali's fabulous baking!**

Tapas evenings once a month, please check our Facebook page for details (**The Forge Coffee Shop**) or pop in to the shop to book or find out when the next night is. £15pp and BYOB. 7pm -11pm

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL EDF SMALL GRANT FUNDING

The Community Council administer a Micro grants Scheme where individual and non constituted groups can apply for up to £250 to carry out an activity on behalf of the community. The decisions on these grants are made at a Community Council meeting whereby applicants should submit a simple application form outlining their project together with costings.

Application forms can be obtained from the Community Council and if you are interested in applying please contact David Sharp at Menstriecommunity@gmail.com

Alternatively just contact any other Community Councillor.

# Meet & Greet

Menstrie has many community clubs and organisations where volunteers work tirelessly to achieve their aims, each edition we'll meet and greet some of these hard-working champions with 10 questions  
This edition we meet Caroline.



Caroline Crawford has been an active member of the Menstrie Community Council for nearly 30 years, performing many of the behind the scenes tasks.

In that time, she has been a constant guiding light, giving strength and continuity while the make-up and direction of the council has changed seeing volunteers come and go.

Previously you may know her from being the Chair of the Centre Council and the Gala which was based in the old Community Centre at the old School.

Chair of the Council for Voluntary Service in Clackmannanshire and on the Duke of Edinburgh Advisory Board.

Leader of the Youth Club in the Village for 14 years and was the founder member setting up the first Playgroup in the village.

Caroline has been an active volunteer in our community for over 50 years!

**Voted Citizen of the Year for Clackmannanshire in 2018**

Caroline has given many hours of her time to make the Menstrie Gala a yearly success and as a community we certainly owe her our gratitude,

## 1. Describe yourself in 10 words

*Enthusiastic, enjoy a challenge, want to contribute to the community.*

## 2. What groups are you active with?

*Menstrie Community Council / Gala / Lunch Club / Access Forum / MCAG / MCRG*

*Trustee on the Board of Alzheimer Scotland as well as being Chair of the local Stirling & Clackmannanshire Branch of Alzheimer Scotland*

*Trustee on the Friends of Forth Valley Royal Hospital.*

*Trustee on the Board of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust.*

*A panel member on the EDF Burnfoot Fund*

## 3. Which figure from the world stage past or present do you feel akin to?

*Rosa Parks*

## 4. If there was one thing you could change in the world what would that be

*Rid the world of politics*

## 5. Are you a Morning / Afternoon or Evening person?

*All three but work best in the late evening*

## 6. What was the last book you read or which pop tune gets your foot tapping?

*Billy Joel "That'll be the day"*

## 7. What is your TV secret pleasure and nightmare?

*Holby City and Casualty (would have liked to have been a nurse). Don't like violent films.*

## 8. Which actor would you want to play you in the film of your life?

*Meryl Streep*

## 9. What have you done or are you doing for Menstrie?

*Hopefully I have made a difference in the village having raised over £250,000 of funding over the years for a variety of projects*

## 10. What has Menstrie done for you?

*Menstrie has given me lots of lifelong friends and it keeps on giving. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else*

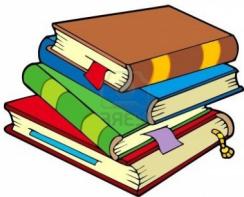


## Menstrie Voices

We meet each Thursday at 7.00pm in the Dumyat Centre, simply to sing, no experience needed, no prima donna's simply a pair of lungs and the urge to enjoy a song or two. Come along and join us, it's healthy, fun and a good laugh.

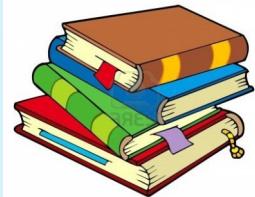
We could do with a few more guys coming along to bolster the groups range.

Join us for some songs at the VE Day celebrations



## MENSTRIE BOOK CLUB

Come along to Menstrie Book Club,  
The First Wednesday of each month  
In The Forge at 7.30pm



## MENSTRIE SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club is run by volunteers. It is held every second Thursday from 12.00-2.30 in the Dumyat Centre.

The meal consists of a main course and sweet, followed by tea, coffee & biscuits currently at a cost of £3.50. Before the meal we have a short exercise class.

We welcome anybody to come along and join us and there is no obligation to take part in the exercises, although there are very gentle and done sitting in a chair. It is a very social occasion so come along and make new friends and enjoy all the social interaction. Try it once and there is no obligation to keep coming.

We would be delighted to have more people coming along to the Lunch Club.  
If you are interested please contact Caroline Crawford on 01259 761573 or just turn up and you will be made very welcome. **We always provide extra meals just in case!**

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## Update from the Parent Council

A busy return to business for the Parent Council with our first meeting of 2020 on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Thanks to all who came along and a warm welcome to the new nursery head and depute head teacher. We discussed fundraising including feedback on the Christmas events and have agreed on a number of events over the remainder of 2019/20:



**Sponsored Run/ Walk 30<sup>th</sup> March.** In fitting with the Alloa Marathon and school health week. If anyone can help with either on the day (along the route, starting/finish lines) or with donations of water, goodie bags, or are interested in sponsoring medals please do get in touch.



**Race Night – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** We are looking for local business to become a Race sponsor – for £50 you will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the Race Night, entry for 2 to the VIP tent for your race and acknowledgment in the programme and all advertising for the event. If you can help or would like to sponsor any element please email; [menstrieparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:menstrieparentcouncil@gmail.com).

All funds raised from both events will be used to upgrade the playground including the new area. In conjunction with the school we will consult with the children to seek views on what they would like.

The next Parent Council meeting is on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March @6.15pm** for 6.30pm start in the new nursery; parents / carers of all school and nursery children and very welcome to attend.

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MCRG is a subgroup of the Community Council. We aim to...

Warn the community via social media of pending or on-going major incidents that impact Menstrie.

Inform the community as a situation develops and recedes.

Assist emergency services and council staff where safe to do so and, when flooding is a concern, make flood protection equipment available for the community. We will also ask the community for help when required.

We will...

Post Facebook messages to ***Menstrie Legends and Community*** as ***Menstrie Resilience***

Tweet as **@MCRG\_Menstrie**



Here is a roundup of what has been occurring for the team since the Winter edition

We have a new mini website which is accessible from the community council site at <http://menstrie.org>. These pages show how to **Contact Us**, a **Resources** page for the community with River and Burn monitoring links and several documents to help homeowners pre and post flooding and a **News** section.

The group have recently taken ownership of some new equipment that we applied for from several community micro grants.



**Ochil View Housing Association** – Paid for walkie talkies, which should help the group organise activities between the Flood pods in Menstrie. Here is the coordinator team testing the Walkie Talkies at one of our monthly planning meetings.

OVHA also paid for the printing costs for a MCRG A5 flyer, which is on display at the MCC notice board outside the Dumyat centre. If you would like a flyer please send us a request or see a reception volunteer at the Dumyat centre. For certain streets in Menstrie that were flooded in 2012 we have added the flyer for your reference.

**EDF Windfarm via MCC** – Paid for a set of hi viz waterproof trousers and some pumping equipment of differing sizes. The pumps we have available to the community are a small electric puddle pump for extraction for very small amounts of clean water down to 1mm. An electric sump pump for dirty water down to 10mm and a much larger external petrol pump for higher volumes.

**STOP PRESS:** The group were put into action recently, with the rainfall affecting the burn, we were out safeguarding Menstrie House and the Charrier, fortunately no flooding occurred but we knew we had taken all precautions to prevent disruption to the lives of our residents.

## Blairlogie and District



### Blairlogie, Menstrie, Alva and the Hillfoots

The SWI are here to educate, to share, to campaign, to learn, to socialise, to build a community and of course, to have fun. From life skills and arts and crafts to raising awareness of current affairs affecting women and helping inform government issues, the SWI is proud of its heritage and our future vision. Be part of the SWI. Join us to learn how to make that perfect scone... and a bit more too! Come a see what we're about. Try it as a visitor for £3.50 per meeting. If you like it, the subscription is only £27.00 for the entire session. As well as a speaker there is always a cuppa and homebakes, fun competitions, even a raffle for only £1! *We only ask you to bring your own mug.*

Wednesday 11th March 2020 Travel Talk - Stuart Low

For further information contact,

Barbara 01259 762532

Thursday 26th March 2020 Hillfoots Group Meeting Evening

Stirling Clackmannan and West Perth (SC&WP)

Wednesday 8th April 2020 Japanese Gardens - Kate Whyte

Federation <https://www.theswi.org.uk>

Wednesday 13th May 2020 AGM

Meetings are at 7pm in Menstrie Scout Hall

### Gala Bingo Teas

Our Bingo teas are all on the last Thursday of the month, below are the dates for this session, all welcome

20th March 2020



30th April 2020

28th May 2020

### Menstrie Parish Church Guild

The Guild has changed this Session to the last Monday of each month at 2.30pm in Rooms 2/3 of the Church.

However, the next meeting is our Open Evening in the Church on Monday 30th March at 7.30 pm when we are having along the well known and popular Jack Delaney & Friends to entertain This should be a great evening of music and song. All are welcome

Dates for your diary:-

**We are holding a Coffee morning on Saturday 25th April from 10am to 12 noon**

**The AGM is on Monday 27th April at 2.30 pm and this is followed by a quiz.**

**The Guild Rally is at Tillicoultry Parish Church on 28th May at 7 pm.**

**Annual Plant Sale & Table Top Sale May 30th 10.00am to 12 noon.**

Laura Christie  
Secretary

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# QUIZ

VE DAY

What does VE Day stand for?

Quick equation: VE Day Year + Queen's Coronation Year  
= 3 \_ \_ 8

Write the VE Day date in Roman Numerals  
----- / - / -----

Was this the end of WWII? Yes or No and Why?

What was Dwight D. Eisenhower's position during VE Day as the surrender was signed

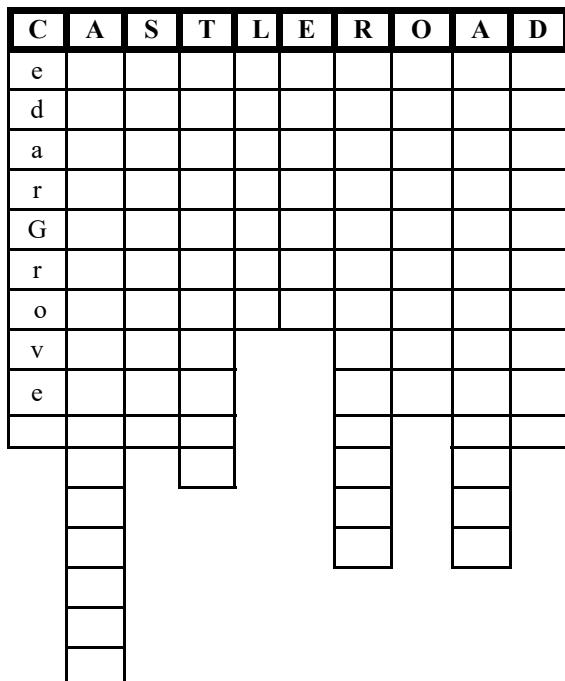
- A. US President
  - B. General
  - C. Allied Coalition Legal Advisor

Which German had authority to sign the surrender document?

- A. Alfred Jodl
  - B. Heinrich Himmler
  - C. Hermann Göring

## How did Britain celebrate freedom?

- A. Colourful bunting and flags lined streets
  - B. Bonfires lit around the UK
  - C. People danced for joy at street parties



Spell **Castle Road** from Street names in Menstrie using the first letter eg. "C" for Cedar Grove

Springtime

## Spring Flowers - Why are dandelion flowers useful?

- A. Nectar for early emerging spring insects, like bees
  - B. Indicate to farmers when to plant wheat crop
  - C. Blackbirds exclusively use the downy seed for nesting

## What is the Spring Vernal Equinox?

- A. The day both Cuckoos can be heard, and Squirrels wake up from hibernation
  - B. Traditionally Daffodils and Tulips are both in flower
  - C. Daylight hours match darkness hours

According to the Met Office can you remember which year these events took place?

- A. Coldest Spring (Avg Daytime temp 5.8°C or 42.4°F)
  - B. Warmest Spring (Ave Daytime temp 9.2°C or 48.6°F)
  - C. Wettest Spring (331mm or 13 inches of rainfall)



*Colour me in*

Answers  
VE Day - Victory in Europe, 3898, VIII / V / MCMXLV, No -  
war against Japan didn't end until Aug 1945, B, A, D  
Spitfire - A, C, 1962, 2011, 1947  
Streets - Cedar Grove, Aberrombie Place, School Lane /  
School Mews, The Charter, Long Row, Elmbank, Rowan Cres-  
cent, Ochil Road, Alder Crescent, Dumyat Road



**EASTER SUNDAY  
12TH APRIL  
THE FUN STARTS AT 1.00PM  
FIRST RACE AT 2.00PM**

## **THE WORLD FAMOUS MENSTRIE INTERNATIONAL DUCK RACE**

Refreshments-Face-painting-Bouncy Castle-Ice Creams-Raffle etc

All Ducks £1.00 per race

Prizes for the first three Ducks home  
Wooden spoon for the slowest paddler



Special Guests  
**DuckT'argnan, Ant and Duck,  
Duck and Dom and  
The Ducks of Hazzard**



### **Gone to pot ! Gardening Feature by Stan Paterson**

As the gardening season is approaching, the Community garden will be opening for the Spring and Summer months for those who may be unfamiliar as to where the garden is located, it is situated to the rear of the Parish Church .

Access to the garden can be gained by following the small pathway leading from Park Road South and round behind the Orchard bungalow, alternatively, from Castle road, turn left at the Castle and the entrance is between the garages.

Whilst on a relatively small scale, the garden consists of several raised beds, various tubs and hanging baskets, a reasonably sized poly-tunnel and plenty of seating.

During the season the beds are planted with summer flowers and vegetables such as leeks, beetroot, onions and beans, the polytunnel is mainly used for bringing on Tomatoes, Chillies, cucumbers etc. A small raised bed is usually reserved for use by small children for example the Toddlers group, this encourages youngsters to come in and get their hands dirty, plant any seeds or flowers and watch them grow.

As the name suggests, The Community garden is there for everyone, pay a visit, enjoy the flowers and pick vegetables for your own use as they ripen, please remember to leave some for others and that donations of plants is always welcome

During the last couple of years the garden has received some very favourable comments which is most appreciated, of course, should there be any experienced gardeners be willing to share expert advice and input this would be very welcome.

Stan



## MENSTRIE BOWLING CLUB

Menstrie Bowling club would like to wish John Stalker all the best for his first time as President in the 2020 season.

The Bowling Club has its Opening day on Saturday 11th April, starting at 2.00pm If you are interested in trying bowls this would be a great opportunity to pop up to the club where members young and old will be on hand with any information and advice you may require.

The bar will be open from 1.00pm and membership forms will be available to anyone interested in joining. The club is offering a £20 membership to all ladies who choose to join in a bowling capacity, this would be deducted from the following years membership cost if just three friendly fixtures are played in the coming season.



The club will be planning some entertainment nights during the season so please follow our Facebook page for more information on these, a race night is planned before the end of May.

### YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS:

#### OUNCILLOR LES SHARP

lsharp@clacks.gov.uk  
Mob 07854 370904

Surgery held each Tuesday 6pm-7.00pm  
in the Dumyat Centre

#### OUNCILLOR DARREN LEE

dlee@clacks.gov.uk  
Mob 07814 173964

### Dates for your Diary

Litter Pick .....11th March  
**Bowling Club opening day 11th April**  
**Duck Race..... 12th April**  
**VE Day celebrations...9th May**  
**Music in the Gardens..6th June**  
**Gala week starts.....7th June**  
**Gala Day Saturday...13th June**  
**Community Gardens..**  
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## A. CLARK



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From Your Local Councillor

This last few months seem to have revolved around work in the village, (as well as the Council Budget) with the establishing of the new ponds, tree felling and trees falling, and of course helping where I can with the Resilience Group which does such great work in protecting our vulnerable citizens in Menstrie House and also the Charrier.

We have a fantastic volunteering spirit in Menstrie and I would encourage everyone to get involved in some way, the planting season approaches and we need help with the baskets and tubs.

I am currently in discussions as to how we can reduce the speed limits in the village, I have been approached by a number of residents and groups expressing concerns around this issue. I will report back once definite progress has been agreed .

As always, if I can assist in any way, my surgery is on a Tuesday 6.00pm in the Dumyat Centre  
lsharp@clacks.gov.uk / -7854370904

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**MENSTRIE CASTLE**



**The Castle commemorative room is having a bit of a facelift**

We have been working with Clackmannanshire Council to secure a small amount of funding to replace the heaters and upgrade some of the decoration within the room that has suffered from damp over the years.

We hope to open the room for limited periods from Easter onwards, we will put times on line.

We have also been in touch with various bodies to see how we can celebrate 400 years of the founding of Nova Scotia in 2021, we are hoping to have a week of events in September 2021, when former Premier Darrel Dexter declared the 11th of September as Nova Scotia Day here in Menstrie.

We are needing some help with this and looking to set up a 'Friends of Menstrie Castle' group, if you are interested in getting involved, drop me a note or catch up with me around the village.

Les Sharp  
lesdsharp@gmail.com



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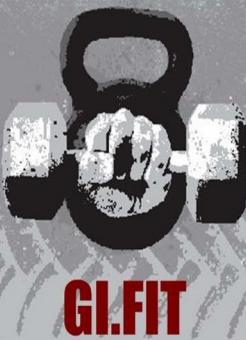
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