



# CLYDESIDER

OUR COMMUNITY'S POPULAR PRESS

Issue 6 June / July 2018

Free



CLYDESIDER CREATIVE SPECIAL  
**DUNBARTONSHIRE DANCERS  
DOING IT FOR SCOTLAND**



## JOE'S SPRING

I wish you could have seen it Joe  
The Kipperoch in the Spring  
Blackthorn wae its snow white bloom  
Grey geese upon the wing

Peewits wae their dancin flight  
In the sky above Dick's Pond  
The croakin o the mating frogs  
Before they shed their spawn

Wullie Turners ploo in parks  
Spring barley fur tae sow  
Feels grand tae be about the noo  
Like a "Let Oot" Dalmoak coo

Bluebells they carpet Pirrys wood  
Wild garlic cloaks the burn  
Dalmoak Castle daffodils  
Wind blown toss and turn

Clabby tides are zeros awe  
Spring salmon in the Clyde  
Grey seals baskin at Ardmore  
Raked cockles at low tide

Weans are settin grass on fire  
The smell wid make ye greet  
It tells ye Winters days are done  
Pits a spring intae yer feet

Fur you a hope the Spring up there  
Will last the whole year long  
March winds tae keep ye fine and cool  
Forever birds in song

Autumn winds will never blaw  
Nor leaves will turn frae green  
The primrose and the daffodil  
All through the year be seen

By John Coleman





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*Clydesider is designed by*



## Welcome to **CLYDESIDER**

Imagine what a happy world this would be if we were all able to make a living doing something we loved – you'd never have to work another day in your life!

This issue we have been privileged to meet some amazing people who have followed their passion rather than a pay packet. Along the way they discovered they are good at it so they are able to make a living doing what they love.

Taking the plunge and moving away from a guaranteed monthly wage can be scary and isn't for everyone. From personal experience I know it takes a lot of work and can be very stressful but that feeling of joy I get when a new issue of *Clydesider* is delivered or when someone tells me they love what we're doing can't be measured in pounds and pence.

Yet so many of the people whose stories we share in this issue were not encouraged to follow their passion. Instead school, parents or financial circumstances forced them, like round pegs in square holes, to curb their enthusiasms and 'find a real job'.

Some, such as sculptor Wayne Darnell, managed to return to their creative side within a few years of leaving school, for others it was almost a lifetime before they were able to concentrate on the thing that really made them tick.

This issue we focus on the huge wealth of creative talent in West Dunbartonshire, from the two teams of amazing young dancers who will represent Scotland in the Dance World Championships, to the inspiring journeys taken by participants in a community photography project.

Then join us for a wander through the *Clydesider* Art Gallery to discover how five local artists got their first foot on the creative ladder and tune into the sounds on offer in two Dumbarton record shops where a passion for music offers an escape route from the daily grind.

If outdoors is more your thing, our urban fairy tale of Jackie and the Beanstalk should be right up your garden path (excuse the pun) or enjoy a walk in Balloch Park with Angela Clark and Linda Morrison's Garden Friends are sure to put a smile on your face.

We also had some beautifully creative entries for our photography and poetry competitions, so please, take your time and enjoy Issue 6 of *Clydesider* community magazine and when you're finished please pass it on to a friend.

Enjoy!



**Amanda  
Eleftheriades-Sherry**  
Editor





## YOUNG ENTERPRISE SUCCESS

A team of young entrepreneurs from Clydebank scooped a top award for their campaign to raise awareness of youth mental health issues.

The Fresh Mentality team from St Peter the Apostle High School came together as part of the Young Enterprise initiative.

Rather than produce a product the team of sixth year students decided to focus their energies on mental health issues.

Team manager, Osase Ogbeiwi, said: "It was something we could all relate to.

"We chose the name Fresh Mentality because we wanted people to think differently about mental health and challenge some of the associated stigma."

The team had stalls at school and community events and used social media to get their message out.

Osase added: "We posted positive quotes and help-line information and shared our own experiences with other young people so they didn't feel they were on their own.

"We also made badges with emotive words on and gave out leaflets which parents found very useful."



Osase said most of the team had been affected by mental health issues. "When we started the programme my brother was struggling with his mental health, that made me even more passionate about it.

"The more I spoke to other people it helped me get a better understanding of what was going on in his head. I also realised how closely your mental health is linked to your physical health and the need to look after both."

The team's hard work and passion was rewarded when they won the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire area marketing award, judged by Dr Juliette Wilson, Director of

Learning and Teaching at the University of Strathclyde Department of Marketing.

She said: "Fresh Mentality had such a clever social media marketing campaign, across differing platforms in an inventive and interactive way.

"They clearly had placed themselves in the shoes of their 'customer' for what is ultimately not an easy topic to discuss, and it's interesting to note that not all of their successful marketing was technology based."

*Fresh Mentality can be found on both Instagram and Facebook.*



## 30 YEARS OF ART

A community art group is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an exhibition of their own artwork alongside pieces produced by local primary pupils.

Faifley Art Group has run an annual school art competition with Edinbarnet and St Joseph's primary schools for the past 13 years.

They extended this to include St Mary's Primary in Duntocher, Carleith Primary and Goldenhill Primary – involving over 350 P4 and P5s.

The competition winners will have their work displayed in Awestruck Art Gallery as part of Faifley Art Group's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition.

Group member Josie Torrance, said: "The children were enthusiastic and enjoyed taking part, it will be great for them to see their work up on display in an art gallery.

"We hope to continue this popular competition with the support from small local businesses."

Faifley Art Group members have been increasing their own skills during their anniversary year after successfully applying for funding from Awards for All which has paid for the exhibition as well as group tuition and visits to the Modern Art Gallery in



Edinburgh.

*The official art exhibition opening will be May 24 from 6.30pm in Awestruck Gallery and will run until May 31.*



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## PLASTIC FREE IN WD

A new community group is on a mission to get local businesses to cut out single-use plastic items.

Plastic Free WD is the brainchild of Jaxx Bruce from Dumbarton East. She is passionate about tackling plastic waste that ends up polluting the coastline and landscape.

Jaxx was inspired by the environmental charity Surfers Against Sewage who were originally set up to improve the quality of the country's beaches.

She said: "As there are not too many surfers in the area I thought we needed a different focus so came up with the idea of Plastic Free WD.

"We submitted a motion to West Dunbartonshire Council and have met with local councillors to encourage them to get involved.

"We have also been going into local businesses to talk to them about reducing or cutting out single-use plastic items."

Jaxx said most businesses have already made positive changes and were delighted a local group was going to be promoting this.

To date Big Sparra Music Café, the Dumbuck hotel, the Little Coffee Shop, the Rock Kitchen and Bakehouse, Stags Head pub, Mr Kebab, Boyds Chemist, Ben Venuti and the Abbotsford hotel have signed up to Plastic Free WD and doing their bit to cut single-use plastic items from their premises.

Jaxx added: "We have just started visiting businesses mainly in the Dumbarton East area and will be expanding to other parts of West Dunbartonshire."

*Follow Plastic Free WD on Facebook to find out more.*

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## DANCE DREAMS

There can be few greater honours in life than representing your country in a major championship and two teams of local dancers will be doing just that when they head off to Barcelona for the Dance World Cup championships.

At *Clydesider* we want to celebrate these achievements so we asked both schools to tell us their story and wish them the best of luck in June.

Dawn Stuart, the owner and principal teacher at Dawn's Dance Academy, said: "This is the first time the girls have tried out for Team Scotland and we are absolutely delighted that 15 of the girls aged between 6 and 13 will represent the School and Scotland in both team and individual dances."

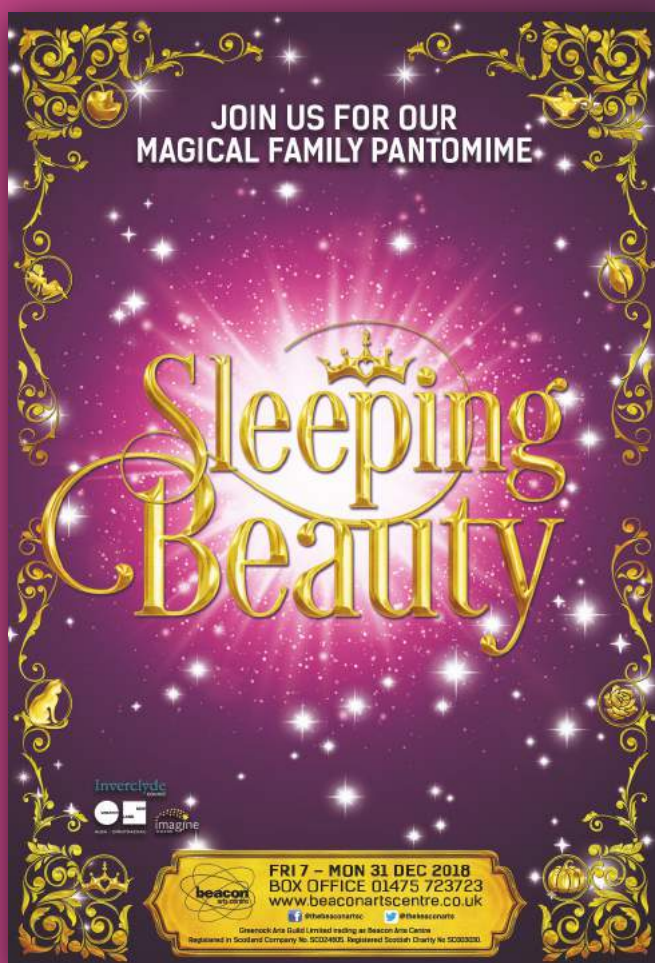
DDA has been running for over seven years and recently moved to a new studio in Dumbarton. Over the years they have competed all over Scotland in team and festival events winning a number of Scottish Championships as well as team competitions.

DDA are no novices at European standards as they represented Scotland in Paris at the European Dance Challenge in 2016 where they

were the proud overall winners with an outstanding 12 gold team medals, six individual golds and three silver medals.

Dawn is extremely proud of her students' success but also very grateful and humbled by the parents/carers involved who are relentless in the support of the dance school and delighted to help fundraise.

She added: "I would like to thank our sponsors Ledgerwoods, Ferguson Flooring, MacKinnon Fencing, Clyde Contracts Glasgow and everyone who has donated to our Justgiving page and the Kiltwalk fundraiser."





# JACKIE & THE BEANSTALK



AN URBAN  
FAIRYTALE  
BY AMANDA  
ELEFThERIADES



Photo by Charlie Sherry

Tucked away at the bottom of the Carman Hill in Renton, just below the railway bridge, is one of our community's well-hidden gems.

It is one of those stories which we love sharing here at Clydesider. So make yourself comfy and we will tell you the tale of Jackie & the Beanstalk.

Our story begins in Glasgow where our heroine – Jackie Coupe – was struggling with burnout and in

desperate need of an escape route from the homeless service she had worked in for 21 years, supporting young rough sleepers.

Like her namesake 'Jack' - who fled his life of drudgery by growing a giant beanstalk and scaling its dizzying heights to plunder a giant's treasure - she loved gardening.

But Jackie had no magic seeds to plant. Instead she decided to make her own magic by cultivating her life-



long passion for gardening.

"I had a light bulb moment that I wanted to be a gardener," Jackie explained. "So I left my job and in 2013 went to Ayr College to do an HND in Horticulture, then I set up my own gardening business in Glasgow."

And, since this is a fable for modern times, our green-fingered leading lady – supported by her trusty husband Phil – has done all this working hand-in-hand with nature.

"I got involved with a company called Locovore," she said. "They have a big greengrocers in Glasgow selling organic veg but most of their produce comes from England because there are not enough organic growers in Scotland so they were encouraging people to set up organic gardens."

"I started working with them in 2015 and then thought it would be great to do this ourselves as we have always wanted to live in the country."

Jackie and Phil spent months searching for the right place and in 2016 the Carman Stables in Renton came on the market ticking all their boxes.

"We needed somewhere within an hour of Glasgow, as Phil is still working there. There was space on the exercise yard to put polytunnels, a decent-size field for veg and the stables are great for storage, plus the chickens and ducks sleep there at night," said Jackie.

"It is something I had dreamt of for years. Phil is the same, he grew up in

Easterhouse and works for SAMH managing a mental health service and we have always wanted to live in the countryside.

"He gets to see the hills on his way home from Glasgow and for all that the A82 is just in front of us and the railway line behind, it is very quiet and everyone has been so friendly and welcoming. Plus there's a cattle grid at the top of the road - so that definitely counts as the countryside for us."

Delighted with her new home Jackie started work creating West Dunbartonshire's first fully organic market garden.

She said: "Everything we do is organic – from the seeds and compost, to how we grow it - there are no chemicals used at all."

"I go through the plants every day picking off caterpillars and slugs and feeding them to the chickens and ducks who go totally crazy for them."

"Their bedding is then used as compost which goes back into the ground because everything they eat is 100% organic as well."

"Nothing goes to waste here, that's what I like about organic principles – you spend a lot of time looking after your ground and you get healthier vegetables in return because they don't get attacked by disease. It's the same principle as looking after our own bodies."

Getting the ground ready for planting was one of Jackie's first jobs and much



of it had to be done by hand as the turf lifter wouldn't cut through ground churned over by horses hooves.

So she spent November, December and January digging the turf up by hand and has a small mountain of it stored under plastic sheeting.

"I'll keep it for two years so there will be lots of nutrients in there and I'll be able to use it again.

"I'm doing all the back-breaking work now in the first three years so it should get easier from there on in."

And her first year of hard slog is starting to pay off with polytunnels filled with 10 different salad leaf

vegetables, eight varieties of tomatoes, two varieties of cucumbers and some squashes.

She also has half of the field in production this year growing a variety of vegetables including broad beans, French beans, turnips, swedes, onions, leeks, broccoli, carrots and courgettes.

Most of the vegetables, along with her chicken and duck eggs, are sold to Locavore. Nature's Harvest in Helensburgh and Fruin Farm restaurant also take some of her produce and any surplus is sold from

the farm along with her husband's home-made jams.

She added: "I try to grow a mix of seasonal vegetables because Fruin Farm, who buy a lot of our produce, change their menus every month as they cook what is in season.

"So I don't have any heated tunnels and just grow seasonally. This year I hope to have more late winter salad leaves like rocket and chard. I also have more squashes and onions in this year and, depending on how the

potatoes go, we will hopefully have vegetables for sale right through the winter."

At the weekend Phil helps out with building, fencing and cleaning the polytunnel roofs and every

Thursday he lends

a hand with the weekly harvesting before heading to work.

He's also the "cook, baker and jam-maker in the household", last year making organic gooseberry, blackcurrant and redcurrant jam from the soft fruit.

This year Jackie has also planted raspberry canes and the pair cut down the leylandi trees replacing them with apple and plum trees so in a few years they will also have organic fruit for sale – and more jam.

As well as growing organically Jackie



Photo by Charlie Sherry



is keen to encourage people to think about what they eat and where their food comes from.

She explained: "Going back to the war years everyone had a garden and grew their own veg, they didn't use chemicals to do it and everyone knew where their food came from. But over the years we have lost that connection with the soil and the food we eat has suffered as a result.

"At college we were taught to walk our crops every day to check them, that way you catch any pests or disease before they do too much damage.

"I enjoy passing on my knowledge as well as the produce, we get a lot of visitors – especially at this time of year when we have ducklings!"

Jackie feels that gardening has given her a whole new lease of life.

She explained: "By the time I left my job I hated social care, I had to go off sick and ended up on anti-depressants for two years.

"Fortunately Phil was really supportive plus he was still bringing in a full-time wage and I thought I can't keep on the way things are - so we just went for it.

"I'll be 56 this year, I've been gardening for 16 years and see myself doing it well into my 70s. I would urge anyone who wants to make a life change to just go for it – don't wait until something goes wrong or until you reach a certain age, just do it.

"I love being out in the fresh air all the time and it's so nice to be able to talk about horticulture to people who are interested. When I was working in social work I could see people's eyes start glazing over when I started talking about my garden.

"I'm totally delighted I went for it, some days I look round and have to pinch myself when I think - I have done all this."

Jackie finds gardening very therapeutic herself and recognises it has huge benefits for people struggling with physical or mental health problems from young kids to older folk like her mum who has dementia.

She added: "My mum enjoys helping in the garden and remembers doing the same as a child during the war when she would help her gran collect and shell the peas.

"It's good that we are all talking about mental health now. Thankfully I have never had a problem talking about having depression, it's not something you can just get over, it takes time and a lot of work and I am lucky Phil works in mental health and understands it.

"Also moving here and starting the garden means I spend more time with my mum as she is part of my daily working life. If I had been working 9 – 5 I would have had to arrange care for her and we were always good friends before the dementia so this works for all of us."

Jackie is hoping to gradually grow the



business increasing her sales to Locavore and other local organic greengrocers.

Her sons are also helping with her development plans putting her in contact with organic cafes in Glasgow and helping with her website so she will have a Click & Collect service on it for people to shop online and pop in to pick up their veg box.

She said: "If the plans come together this year, that's smashing but if not I will continue selling to Locavore and next year hope to get the last third of

the field finished and then approach some restaurants to see if they are interested in having a supplier of local, seasonal organic produce."

And, if it takes off Phil hopes to reduce his hours and eventually join Jackie working in the garden full-time – providing the perfect happy ending to this modern fairy tale.

For now to find out what organic produce Jackie has on sale you can follow her on Facebook at 'Jackie & the Beanstalk Organic Veg' or when her sign is out pop in and say hello.

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# DIARY OF A DANCE MUM

Words & Photos by Jenny Watson

The Dance World Cup has over 5,000 dancers from over 40 countries, yet it's not very well known. Hopefully our team will raise awareness of this very prestigious event and also help put West Dunbartonshire on the dance map.

## June 2017

A small team from Dancebase Academy and Performing Arts travel to Germany to compete in the Dance World Cup. Hollie Baird, one of our soloists places 8<sup>th</sup> in her section and Team Scotland placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the world. Hope and inspiration struck and Lindsey Donald, principal teacher of Dancebase Academy, decided to try

qualifying with a bigger team for the Dance World Cup in Sitges, Barcelona June 2018.

## August 2017

The team is formed, rehearsals begin! Dancers are excited, parents anxious and Lindsey motivated. She knows she has a good team, anything is possible.

## October 2017

A fundraising committee is formed to help cover travel, accommodation, tracksuits and costumes. All the children and parents are ready to work!

## Week Beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

After nine weeks rehearsing the team is ready to film the qualifying videos. Everyone is in high spirits and we have team dances, solos and duets filmed in under two hours. We even manage to fit in a little photoshoot. The remaining dances are filmed during the week. Then the editing begins to meet DWC's exact requirements.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

Lindsey sends off all the videos for submission and the waiting game begins! The dancers continue to rehearse once a week and the nerves start to kick in.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Dec

Parents receive a message to bring dancers to the studio for DWC information. Lindsey is waiting nervously for us all. The kids are as high as kites.

"I've received an email from the team manager. I don't want to open it"

"Open it! Open it!" we are all shouting. She does, and the biggest smile ever appears: "We did it! Eight of our dances have qualified. Including the two teams!! We are competing in Dance World Cup 2018 as part of Team Scotland and Team UK."

Lots of cheering, screaming and tears follow - now the hard work really begins.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

The first of our big fundraisers is a great night with a fantastic amount raised. We even have a special visit from our good friend Santa - who is looking forward to cheering on Team Scotland in June, apparently he has a holiday round about then!

### 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

Lindsey received more amazing news. Hollie Baird, one of our youngest team members, has been chosen to be a Team Scotland Mascot! She will be leading Team Scotland at the Opening Parade and meet the judges on behalf of the team. It's a great honour and a

fantastic acknowledgment of her dedication and hard work.

### 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Dec

As it's such a busy time of year we decide to add to the craziness by participating in bag-packing in B&M Dumbarton. We put on our Santa hats, our biggest, happiest smiles and sprinkle a little extra Christmas magic. All the staff and customers are extremely supportive and encouraging and definitely add to our Christmas cheer.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

First championships of the year - Zetland Stage festival. Great way to kickstart 2018.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Jan

These kids are certainly fitting in as many competitions as they can - this time in Edinburgh. We need an extra bus for all the trophies and medals won today!

### 4<sup>th</sup> Feb

We need a team photo to use in all our promotions and want an instantly recognisable location, so where better than Loch Lomond with the Maid of The Loch with Ben Lomond in the background.

### 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

More bag packing and lots more interested and supportive staff and customers donating to our funds. We really couldn't do it without you!

### 17<sup>th</sup> March

A very busy weekend for Dancebase with kids at different events across the UK. Ava is at the Move IT exhibition down in London, where she is given



the amazing opportunity to have a first peek at the Team Scotland and Team UK tracksuits!

Hollie was competing at TDCI Montgomery Championship and made the semi final. All this experience will help the dancers with their confidence for the DWA.

### 25<sup>th</sup> March

Another team comp day. They placed in every section they competed in gaining more trophies, medals, and more importantly, confidence for performing!

### 31<sup>st</sup> March

One of our favourite ways to fundraise is a Race Night. All our friends and family join for an evening of fun pretending we are world renowned jockeys! It can be quite hard sometimes to fundraise, especially for a large team, but we truly have the best family and friends supporting us and we are extremely thankful to them all.

### 30<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> April

One of the biggest weeks in the dance calendar – the BATD Stage Festival. It's the first time DBA has attended this festival and a lot of work has gone into competing.

Three of our dancers – Melissa, Aimee and Hollie - place exceptionally well.

These are outstanding wins for the girls as they have only been dancing for a couple of years now and only competed at a handful of stage festivals.

### Coming Up

The Dance World Cup begins June 21 and runs to July 1, we have many more events before it including three bag packs and the Kiltwalk. Find out more visit [www.dwcworld.com](http://www.dwcworld.com) and watch the live stream of every heat of the event <http://www.dwcworld.com/watch-live-now>



*We are still looking for sponsors for tracksuits and travel wear. If you can help contact Lindsey on the DBA Facebook or Instagram pages.*

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## COMMUNITY PROJECTS CELEBRATE £425,000 FUNDING BONANZA

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### SPONSORED EDITORIAL

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Local groups are improving community spaces and buildings across West Dunbartonshire with cash injections from the 'Your Community' initiative.

The programme, launched in 2016, saw West Dunbartonshire Council allocate £1million for capital investment across the local authority.

This gave the Community Planning Partnership and Alliance the chance to put community budgeting to the test.

Their aim, to empower and involve more local residents in the budget decision-making process, is part of a national drive to encourage people to help decide where public money is spent locally.

Phase 1 took place in November 2016 with 76 projects putting ideas to the community vote at eight local events, attended by 350 residents.

A further two rounds followed each learning and developing by using feedback from groups and residents.

In June 2017 another 62 projects received funding with great turnout at the voting events.

The final phase took place between November and February 2018, with the final vote at the Making

Connections Community Conference in Clydebank Town Hall on February 3.

It gave 56 projects a chance to share their ideas with over 200 residents attending the conference.

A Community Alliance spokesperson said: "Community budgeting has given us lots of valuable information about what's happening locally and helped us support groups to meet, make connections and start working together."

And Amanda Coulthard, Performance and Strategy Manager, added: "It's also given us great feedback which will help with participation and engagement in the future.

"Most importantly though, community budgeting and the Council's investment has made it possible to fund some great projects taking place in your local communities, led by local residents."

Bonhill Community Gardens is one such project which benefited from a £10,000 boost in Phase Two.

A group spokesperson said: "We were a few like-minded residents who wanted to create a growing space for our community. All we needed was a space and some funding.

"We found the right space and Your Community funding helped bring our dream to fruition, thanks to the community voting for us. We are now working with the Leamy Foundation's Sow and Grow project to get the local school and nursery involved and also have a social cooking group."



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# GARDEN FRIENDS

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Words & Photos by Linda Morrison

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We can never have too many friends. We have best friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, young friends, old friends and pet friends, to name but a few. How many of you have garden friends?

Garden friends are always there for you and they are really the best kind of friends. They won't keep you off your work and they are brilliant listeners. Tell them a secret and it will go no further.

Garden friends will also add a splash of colour and a bit of character to your garden.

I once heard it said that garden friends or Scarecrows as they were commonly called, scared birds from your garden. I have discovered this is not the case when I saw two crows tear the face from one of my garden friends. It was nest building time. I was ok with this.

So, how do you get garden friends?

You make them of course. Anything goes. You could even fashion one on a family member or a friend, but do remember to keep this to yourself.





I don't think Aunty Margaret would be too delighted to know that the weathered garden friend with one eye and no hair was made with her in mind!

When you make a garden friend you can be as adventurous as you like.

Buy some old clothing and material from the charity shop, some polyester filling and some twine and you are on your way to creating one of the bestest friends you will ever have.

If you want to have them free standing then pay a visit to the garden centre and buy some bamboo plant supports. These come in different sizes and are great to support your new friend.

Garden friends deserve to have names just like our regular friends and again the names will add to their character and charm, so be creative here too.

Spring has arrived and the growing season is upon us. This is the perfect opportunity to create something different for your garden. Wishing you all happy memories with your new friends.

*Pictured on the left is Gertrude and on the right is Cowboy Joe Crow.*





## Clydesider Competitions

Clydeside author David Munro from Ardoch, recently launched the third installment in his Time Jigsaw series and kindly provided Clydesider with a signed copy for a prize.

Awakening tells the story of time traveller James Carsell-Brown who falls for the ghost of a woman who took her own life. He is thrown back in time to 1916 before the tragedy occurred to investigate her suicide before returning to the future where a startling discovery changes his life forever.

To win the Awakenings signed copy tell us the name of the time travel series.

Poetry Competition Issue 7 - the theme is 'Happiness'. Usual rules apply:-

- One entry per person and you must live, work or be part of a group based in West Dunbartonshire to enter
- All poems entered must be your own work
- By entering you give Clydesider Creative Ltd permission to publish your work in print, digital and social media outlets – this in no way infringes your copyright.

All competition entries email to [clydesidercomp@gmail.com](mailto:clydesidercomp@gmail.com) or send to Clydesider, 48a Erskine View, Old Kilpatrick G60 5JG by July 6 2018.

Good Luck!

## West Dunbartonshire's Only Independent Pet Shop Now Sells Fish

Wright For Pets, based in Alexandria, has just added an aquatic section to its shop.

They now sell a wide selection of tropical and coldwater fish including several varieties of Angelfish, Barbs, Siamese Fighting Fish, Tetra, Guppies, fancy goldfish and more.

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Offer expires: August 13 2018



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# COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

By Gail Russell

Stepping into my first session at Inclusive Images, I wasn't sure what to expect. Would I know enough about cameras? Would it all be too technical for me? I sat down and, after introducing myself to the rest of the participants around the table, listened as Charlie Eleftheriades-Sherry and Michael McLaren, who run the workshops, explained what we would be doing over the coming weeks.

It wasn't what I had imagined at all - instead of fiddling with camera settings and the technical aspects of photography, we learned some basic visual guidelines to help us with our snaps, and more importantly, we learned about each other and our community.

Each week we had an assignment, like taking photos of the good and the bad we found in our community or photographing our favourite place to be in the local area.

Then we'd come back in and discuss our images. Some sparked debate, and some were more heartfelt and had more meaning than I'd been expecting. We all grew to know our community more deeply and made friends along the way over a cup of tea and a

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# INCLUSIVE IMAGES

We are a social enterprise set up to run Community Action and Community Voice workshops that help groups tell and share their stories through the power of photography.

Contact Charlie  
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www.inclusiveimages.org

biscuit.

It was this sense of togetherness and the friendships made that had me coming back to the sessions again and again.

I spoke to some of the participants from Inclusive Images' most recent Community Voice workshop, and their praise was just as high.

"I really enjoyed the course," says Christina Logan. "I learned how to use my camera and how to take better pictures. It was great to meet other local people for a chat and I made friends.

"It was much more than just about photography; it was getting to know your community. Charlie and Michael were eager to pass on their knowledge and answer all our questions."

Among the participants was 13 year-

old Dean who said: "I enjoyed it very much. I'm going to take more photos now as I understand after the course that they can tell a story."

Once the workshops finish we have a chance to showcase our images and the stories behind them. We invite our family and friends to a gallery day where our photos are on display alongside meaningful captions we've chosen to represent the thoughts behind the images.

It's never easy to pick our favourites - the calibre of the images is so high and the reasons they were taken are always so gripping it's difficult to discard any.

Charlie and Michael's support doesn't end there, though. Alongside the photography workshops, Inclusive Images also helps some of those interested in continuing photography to gain a place at college. This means that



ultimately, some of the Inclusive Images alumni can go on to receive qualifications and map out a career in photography.

So, whether you have an interest in photography, your community, or just want to get to know other people from your local area and get out of the house for a few hours, I'd highly recommend giving an Inclusive Images workshop a go.

I think my 8-year-old son, Dexter, pretty much summed it up in his review:  
"It's great!"

Find out more about Inclusive Images by visiting their website at [www.inclusiveimages.org](http://www.inclusiveimages.org) or follow them on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

**"It was much more than just about photography; it was getting to know your community."**

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- 18 Milngavie Town Hall  
71 Station Road
- 25 Napier Hall  
Old Kilpatrick

#### June 2018

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Clydebank
- 15 Milngavie Town Hall  
71 Station Road
- 22 Goldenhill Primary  
Hardgate

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can be arranged by calling 0141 952 9677

Constituency office of Gil Paterson MSP, Suite 1 - 6 Titan Business Enterprise  
Centre, 1 Aurara Avenue, Clydebank, G81





John Kelenfoldi

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# CLYDESIDER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

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By Charlie Sherry

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I have enjoyed judging this issue's competition although it has been a tough task as the standard of images was outstanding.

However, a choice had to be made but before announcing the winners, a wee disclaimer - when I see the photos I have no idea who took them. What I'm saying to all my friends who entered:- "Dinny faw oot wi mi if av no picked yer entry!"

The theme for this issue was 'Your favourite place in West Dunbartonshire' and we received a wonderful selection of images from across the area.

Our winner is John Kelenfoldi with his stunning sunrise shot over the River Leven looking towards a silhouetted Dumbarton town centre with the bridge leading and an almost perfect symmetrical reflection on the river.

John's shot has everything a good photo needs - the colours are amazing, composition-wise it is perfect and he's even captured a few seagulls for a bit of drama.

Gary Ellis's photo taken between the rocks looking across Loch Lomond came very close second. Scenically it's a fantastic and technically a lot of thought has gone into creating it with clever use of framing and depth of



field. Well done Gary.  
Our third place runner-up,  
Rachel Dennett has got the  
competition theme spot on with  
her lovely image of her dog on  
top Stonymollan with the  
backdrop of Loch and Ben  
Lomond.

Like the others, Rachel has put  
a lot of thought into her  
composition with great use of  
rule of thirds and depth of field  
highlighting the stunning  
natural beauty all around us.

What is unique about Rachel's  
shot, is she has put a lot of  
herself in the image as well. It's  
obvious two of her great loves  
are on show - her dog and the  
beautiful Scottish countryside,  
thank you for sharing them  
Rachel and well done.

All of the entries were  
excellent, unfortunately I can  
choose just three but keep them  
coming folks and better luck next time.

Clydesider would like to thank Charlie  
Sherry director of Inclusive Images for  
judging the competition and Iain  
Wilson from Photo Ecosse in  
Dumbarton High Street for providing  
the prizes – a 20 x 30" canvas print  
for John's winning entry and framed  
prints for Gary and Rachel.

Photo Competition Issue 7 – theme -  
'Sport & Leisure in West  
Dunbartonshire'. Please email entries  
to [clydesidercomp@gmail.com](mailto:clydesidercomp@gmail.com) by  
Friday July 6 2018.



Gary Ellis



Rachel Dennett

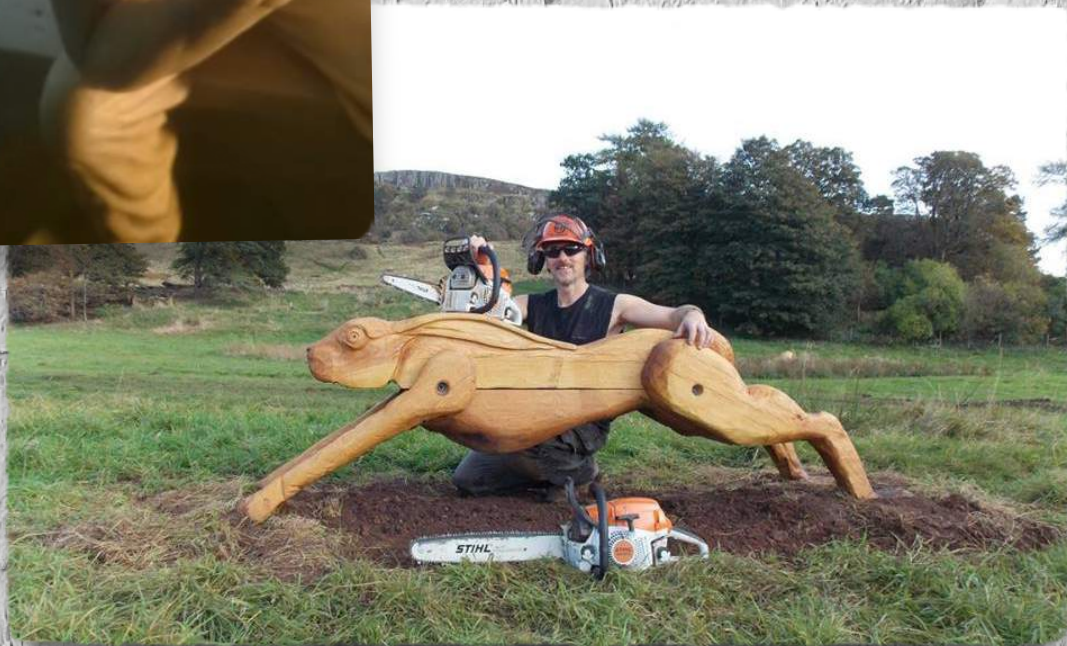
*The usual rules apply:-*

*One entry per person and you must  
live, work or be part of a group based  
in West Dunbartonshire*

*All images entered must be your own  
work*

*By entering you give Clydesider  
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# CLYDESIDER ART GALLERY

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## WAYNE DARNELL

*52, public art sculptor  
Lives in Clydebank, originally from  
North London.*

*Q. How did you get into art?*

A. I left school without any qualifications because I was dyslexic. I worked on farms, building sites, factories, I was even in the army for awhile. When I was 24 I put myself into university and studied model-making, special effects and sculpting - it changed my life. From there I got work in architectural model-making then product development models, then into exhibition working on the Millennium Dome, after that I got into film-making and worked at Pinewood Studio, then I decided I wanted to be a sculptor so I started making figurines and they just got bigger and more abstract. I work in stone, timber, wax, clay, metal - anything and everything I can get my hands on. I like sculpture to either blend in with its environment or give a visual slap round the face though I try not to have a set style.

*Q. Where can we see your artwork?*

A. At Dalry train station there are the 'White Hares Looking Up' - I wanted to get people to look up from their phones and see the beautiful countryside. In Port Glasgow there is a giant ant and up in the Lang Crag

woods in Milton there are some of my wood carvings, a cairn and a circle of stones. I also worked on Belleville Community Gardens in Greenock and you can see photos of the sculptures on my Facebook page - creativezenuk

*Q. Who or what inspires your work?*

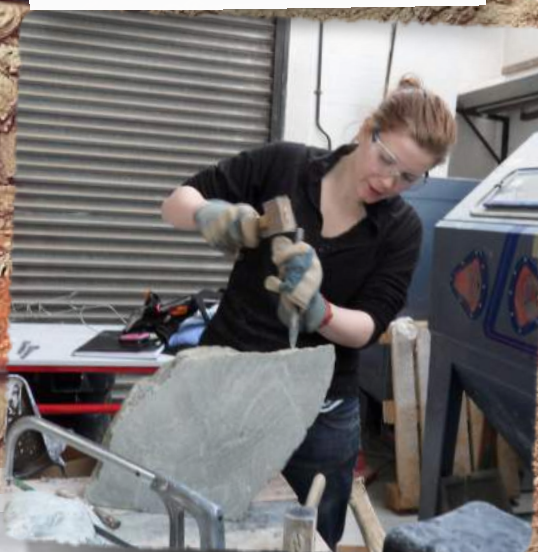
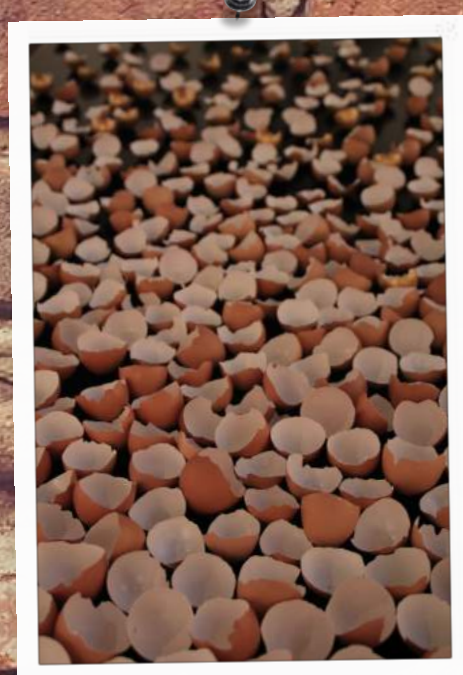
A. From a sculpting point of view I love classic French and Greek sculpture, particularly Rodin - I learned to sculpt by reading a book by Rodin's tutor. Also the countryside inspires me and part of my work is to try and encourage people to get out more and enjoy the country.

*Q. If you could have an art tutorial from a famous artist who would it be and why?*

A. Either Picasso - he'd probably be a good laugh, you could have a drink with him - or Rodin as I love his work, think he's a genius and I aspire to get to that standard one day.

**"I wanted to get people to look up from their phones and see the beautiful countryside."**







# CLYDESIDER ART GALLERY

## JEN SMITH, 28

*I'm a Collections Officer for the Heritage team in the council, looking after over 800 sewing machines (the largest collection of its kind in Europe), most of which came from the Singer factory in Clydebank.*

**Q. How did you get into art?**

**A.** I grew up in the countryside in a very creative family who worked with wood so I spent my childhood using my hands - drawing, sewing, designing and creating projects in the workshop. At art school, I did a mixture of fine art and design and tried out every technique going - ceramics to vacuum forming, wax casting to sand blasting, photography to stone carving.

**Q. Who or what inspires your work?**

**A.** I'm a big fan of multiples - I use repeated forms and collections (it's no wonder I work in a curatorial role!), especially every-day or waste items like shells or eggs or paper and transforming them into installations. I also love the outdoors and take inspiration from the natural world like clusters of repeated barnacle formations.

**Q. Where can we see your artwork?**

**A.** I've just finished a design commission and I'm trying out some

new screen printing ideas - you can find my work on my website:  
jencatherinesmith.weebly.com

**Q. If you could have an art tutorial from a famous artist who would it be and why?**

**A.** I'd love to spend a day in the woods with Andy Goldsworthy - he makes incredible site-specific artworks using materials from the land like snow, ice, leaves and stones. We'd go exploring, cameras slung over our shoulders and use the forest as our canvas - creating something beautiful for people to stumble across.



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# CLYDESIDER ART GALLERY

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**Owen McGuigan, 66,**

*Photographer and artist*

*Born in Yoker and lives in Clydebank*

*Q. How did you get into photography and art?*

A. I got married in the early 1970s, I was working and had a spare bit of cash so I bought myself a cine-camera and, a wee bit later, a film camera. At the same time the Clydebank I had known all my life started to disappear, they were demolishing all the old factories and tenements so I decided to record this with my new cameras. Really I have continued to do so ever since. In the past few years I began painting and doing a bit of sculpting after joining Dalmuir Park art group, I built an exact scale copy of the Titan crane with Christmas lights attached - I call the real Titan a 150ft tombstone for old Clydebank and my creation the Christmas Titan.

*Q. Where can we see your artwork?*

A. I have a website for my photography:  
[www.myclydebankphotos.co.uk](http://www.myclydebankphotos.co.uk) where you can see all of my photographs and videos.

The 'Christmas Titan' can be seen displayed at Awestruck Galleries now and again or through my front window in Whitecrook throughout the Christmas holiday period with its lights flashing away.

*Q. Who or what inspires your work?*

A. Not sure if anyone in particular inspires my work, I just do things I like personally. However, I am a great admirer of the designs of Charles Rennie Macintosh. I think it is a great shame he was not appreciated enough when he was alive, it is only relatively recently that more folk have begun to recognise his genius.

*Q. If you could have an art tutorial from a famous artist who would it be and why?*

A. That's an easy answer for me, again I would have to say whom I believe to be Scotland's greatest designer/architect: Charles Rennie Mackintosh. I just love everything the man did, it would be a joy to sit down with him and talk shop.

**"The Clydebank I had known all my life started to disappear, they were demolishing all the old factories and tenements so I decided to record this with my new cameras."**







# CLYDESIDER ART GALLERY

## Cecilia Barrie, painter

*Born in Clydebank and lived here all my life.*

**Q. How did you get into art?**

A. I knew nothing about art until I went to Italy and visited the Sistine Chapel and the Statue of David – I was blown away by them. Years later I went to a beginners art class at Clydebank College. The tutor said I was talented and she had a university place for me. I thought she was mad and said 'don't be ridiculous, I can't paint' plus I had a mortgage and my boys to look after, I couldn't just go off to university. I left it at that, then years later started classes with artist Dennis Bannister. He was very strict but I saw how others progressed and was determined to keep at it. Today, I go to the Wee Art Group in Whitecrock, that's where I'm really learning the different styles. Some days I look at my paintings and still can't believe I did them.

**Q. Where can we see your artwork?**

A. I do a lot of my paintings for different charity auctions. I've had pieces accepted for the Huntington's charity, Renal Cancer charity, the Beatson Hospital – that was my first big charity auction - and I have a piece going into the St Vincent Hospice show and auction in May. I also have a website [www.ceciliabarrieart.co.uk](http://www.ceciliabarrieart.co.uk)

**Q. Who or what inspires your work?**

A. Colour inspires me, I just look at colours and think they reflect how you see the world. There is so much talent out there, I like so many artists and it doesn't matter if they are famous or not.

**Q. If you could have an art tutorial from a famous artist who would it be and why?**

A. Leonardo Da Vinci, he was fantastic at making people look real, I think if I had a tutorial with him I would definitely be a better painter.

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# CLYDESIDER ART GALLERY

## Joseph Dalton, 26

*I moved to West Dunbartonshire in 2017 both for my partner's job and to work on my own art near some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country.*

**Q. How did you get into art?**

**A.** I have always enjoyed drawing but I started painting when I was at school and I have loved it ever since.

**Q. Who or what inspires your work?**

**A.** The natural environment inspires me, it never gets boring. I love cycling and walking which get me out and about a lot and I am constantly stopping to stare at the colours and light around me.

**Q. Where can we see your artwork?**


**A.** At the moment my artwork is mainly on my website ([josephdaltonartist.com](http://josephdaltonartist.com)) or on instagram (@josephdaltonart) but I will also be doing markets around the area throughout the summer

**Q. If you could have an art tutorial from a famous artist who would it be and why?**

**A.** A very difficult choice, it would have to be Claude Monet, I was a massive fan of the Impressionists

when I was first painting at school and that has never changed, I love the way Monet paints and portrays landscapes in different stages of light throughout the day. But Turner comes in a close second.

**"I started painting when I was at school and I have loved it ever since."**




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# THE MUSIC MAN

Words & Photos by Tommy Crocket

Alistair Ferguson is a walking encyclopaedia of modern music.

His love of music goes back to his teenage years where he, like many of us, spent his Saturdays touring Dumbarton's record shops and later Glasgow's.

"There were three in Dumbarton alone in those days of the dim and distant past," he told me.

On leaving school he, like most young men at the time, had to put his creativity on the backburner to learn a trade and earn a wage. "I went straight from Dumbarton Academy to MOD at Coulport as an apprentice electrician," he remarked.

But his music was a passion that never left him and whilst working at Coulport he spent his lunchtimes practising his guitar craft.

A fellow worker heard him one day and this was the spark that led to the formation of AGM - the popular trio which now perform throughout West Dunbartonshire and further afield, raising thousands of pounds for local charities and good causes.

Michael Connelly was his fellow worker and the band's 'M'. They were soon joined by 'G' - the glorious singing voice of Gina Coleman, a home care worker with the Council.

The trio began gigging in 2012 and have a solid and dependable reputation and a repertoire of songs from the '50s to the present day.

"We started in Dumbarton's Benview, building up a range of songs and our first real gig was at Oakbank in Alexandria in May 2012.

"As the year went on we did fundraisers for St Augustine's Church and Kinship Care amongst others,"



explained Al.

"This led to the idea of monthly 'Acoustic Nights' at St Augustine's Church where the audience members can bring a bottle and pay a fiver to enjoy some great music from an extensive list of artists who generally provide their services free."

Profits from the St Augustine's shows go to a range of local charities rather than the big national concerns.

Residential care homes and church social causes benefit as did the Clutha Bar Fund and CHAS.

After nearly 30 years working as an electrical engineer with the MoD and Babcock's, Al wanted to find a way of sharing his love of all things musical, so when he retired he set up Discography in Dumbarton's Bell Centre.

Here he is in his element answering questions on the myriad of artists and their music. If Al hasn't got it, either music or information, he'll get it for you. There is little or nothing he doesn't know about the music of Matt McGinn, John Martyn, Elton John, Level 42, Miles Davis and Pat Metheny to mention a few of his great favourites who have inspired him over the years.



You'll also find a selection of guitars for sale, acoustic and electric, as the guitar is Al's first love.

"With the way things are for people nowadays, I'm happy with informal paying up arrangements. Usually it works out okay although sometimes there are wee hiccups as demands on limited incomes are worsening as household bills increase."

The shop is a hub of all things musical

and while I chat to Al people call in to arrange gigs for the band.

And he has passed his love for music on to his sons, Jordan and Andrew. If one of them puts down the guitar, another will pick it up and carry on strumming and finger picking.

Knowing how busy the Music Man is it's amazing he can find time for other interests but he is a passionate Rangers fan and regular visits to Dalmuir Golf Club help keep him fit for his gruelling workload although time for hill-walking is now in very short supply.

*Many readers of Clydesider will already know Alistair in one capacity or another, but if not, you could do a lot worse than pay a visit to Discography or St Augustine's monthly Acoustic Nights.*



## SUPPORTING LOCAL ENTERPRISE

At Clydesider we are all about appreciating what is on our doorsteps – whether that's the beautiful scenery, the amazing history, the interesting and talented people or our local business community.

So we were delighted to join a new initiative, spear-headed by Robert Sanchez – owner of Big Sparra Music Café in Dumbarton East.

Robert set up the Facebook group Dumbarton Business Owners/Managers to bring local businesses together to support each other and encourage people to shop local.

He explained: "I decided to set up the Group as I saw it mentioned on the Save Dumbarton High Street

Facebook page and thought it was a good idea.

"I hope we can use it to co-ordinate events in the town and support each other. It's early days, we'll see how it goes as it develops."

We also like to feature a quirky or community-minded business. This issue we came across

Honeyboy Amps who are putting their own creative take on the slogan, 'built beside the Clyde'.

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There is a new kid on the block making a stir on the rhythm and blues music scene and he lives right here in West Dunbartonshire.

And though Andy Smith does play in a band himself, it's not his own music that is raising eyebrows but the beautiful guitar and harmonica amps which he makes by hand to bring other musicians' work to life.

Working from his home in the hills above Old Kilpatrick Andy, aided by his equally talented wife Sarah, is creating quality hand-built, hand-wired all-tube amps which produce a very distinctive vintage sound that whisks the listener back in time to a dark, smoke-filled blues bar circa 1950s.

Covered in faux crocodile, gator and snakeskin they come in a range of colours including rose, burgundy and sea foam making a visual statement that stands out whether in a music studio or living room.

Andy only set up the business in 2016, three years after turning his back on his day job in England where he had worked in IT for 25 years and heading north to start a new life which would allow both him and Sarah to explore and enjoy their creativity.

A harmonica player in *Used Blues R & B* band, Andy stumbled into amp-building almost by accident. It started when he was looking for a new amplifier and had a choice between an expensive American import or cheap Chinese option which needed some tweaking to produce the sound he was after.



## AMPING IT UP IN OLD KILPATRICK

Words by Amanda Eleftheriades  
Photos by Charlie Sherry

He realised he could make something better than the Chinese version, cheaper than the American one and without the heavy import costs.

The cabling side of the business he understood from his IT days but having never worked in electronics before he had to teach himself by reading whatever he could get his hands on, then he built a harmonica amp for himself in 2014.

The same year a friend, who liked the sound and look of Andy's harmonica amp, requested one for his guitar and soon after Honeyboy Amps was born.

Andy said: "The amps are popular with musicians looking for vintage guitar or harmonica tone, and they're great for blues, rock'n'roll, swing and rockabilly – all the genres I grew up with.

"Our customers really appreciate the personal attention they receive when they order a custom amp, as we can



show them all the custom finish combinations, and tailor component selection to meet their requirements.

"Since we started with two models, we've expanded the range to include speaker cabinets and we're now developing bigger amps."

The Honeyboy Amps' quirky look is also a big selling point and Sarah, who runs her own craft business - Eclectica By Sarah - has sourced 14 different cover materials for Andy to use along with grille cloths, handles and even pilot lights which add an unique look to each amp he builds.

Andy added: "We try to buy from Scottish companies as much as possible. All of our wood comes via a timber yard in Paisely; we have our metal chassis boxes made by a steel factory in Hillington; we found a small-components supplier in Fife; and our web designers are in Glasgow.



And the Honeyboy Amps are receiving rave reviews from guitar and harmonica players alike.

Tommy Bentz, a Wisconsin-based guitar player and music shop owner, borrowed one of Andy's amps when he played a blues festival in Glasgow and enjoyed it so much he borrowed it again when his band returned for their Scottish tour.

He described the amp as having: "thick vintage Fenderesque tones, but with a clarity and depth to go from gritty rhythmic bite to soaring creamy leads, with an organic feel and dynamic response that guitarist dream about."

And he is keen to stock the Honeyboy amps in his music shop in the States.

Andy believes word of mouth and the quality of the sound produced by the amps is helping sales. As guitar player Jerome Stewart said: "I totally love it, every nuance of what you play comes through. Looks amazing, small, light, loud, breaks up, plays clean. Best amp I have ever played and I have been through a few!"

Andy is now receiving orders for his amps from across the globe and has just produced an album using the amps with professional sponsors, Giles Robson on harmonica and guitar player Chris Corcoran.

And he still finds time to enjoy the Glasgow blues music scene and play harmonica with the *Used Blues* band where his band members also put the Honeyboy amps to good use.

*To find out more about Honeyboy Amps visit [www.honeyboyamps.com](http://www.honeyboyamps.com) or call 01389 499879.*



A young girl with brown hair and a pink bow, wearing a pink jacket and white pants, is sitting on a large, weathered wooden carving of a creature's head. The carving has large eyes, a wide mouth, and a small horn. The background is a forest of bare trees.

# A WALK IN THE PARK

Words & Photos by Angela Clark

As you walk into Balloch Park every worry and tension slides off your back like losing a brick-laden rucksack, even the air seems sweeter. A new adventure is about to begin and your thoughts become wild and free like all the trees, grass and wildlife around you.

A wooden mushroom bears to the left as you begin your journey, carved by local man Patrick Muir, who has used his skills to create an exciting walk of fantasy and fun. More carvings come into view further along the path, a little fairy house, sparkling with glitter; a wooden acorn carved so beautifully life-like that I'm sure the squirrels try to nibble it.

As the journey continues, a spectacular row of trees line the path, each displaying its own natural design of twists and bends - almost as if they

have been dancing in the wind when no-one was watching - forming unique shapes and giving each a distinct character.

A particular tree stands out and would put a smile on most folk's face. Young lovers, maybe old, have carved their initials on the bark of this one, sealing the bond of love and declaring their unity forever.

From this position an opening gives way to spectacular views of Loch Lomond, the neighbouring hills and Balloch Castle.

A specially designed Chinese garden is accessible at the end of the castle wall, the well-tended lawn and fabulous display of trees creates a calm atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. Seated areas are offered if rest and reflection are required before re-joining the path.



As the journey continues a large dragon carved from fallen trees comes into view, the fire-blowing creature generates excitement from all ages, as people hurry over to get a glimpse. The children can jump on its back, give it a kiss or even a name. Some more keen than others as imaginations run wild. Just be careful not to waken it, or you'll have to run fast.

If an encounter with a fire-breathing dragon doesn't exhaust the children, further down the path past a large grassy picnic area, two play parks come into view, both with a variety of equipment giving the children plenty to explore.

Whilst watching the children you can take advantage of a selection of light

refreshments available from the little Slipway cafe situated beside the pier. With treats to hand, sit down on the sand, kick off your shoes and savour the views - they won't disappoint. Remember moments of happiness and contentment like these, don't last long so enjoy it while it lasts.

As the sky begins to darken there's a slight chill in the air. It's time to leave, back on to the path, the trees line the way once again swishing side to side

and whispering to each other in the light wind that has taken hold.

There is a little bridge that separates the route, giving you an option of going back to where you started or continuing on to a place yet to be explored.

The unexplored path has an array of boats bobbing around in the water, as if they are getting ready for a disco that's soon to be in full swing. Some half submerged in water, victims to the last event, maybe.



The Silver Dolphin appears in her full glory, the luxurious passenger boat patiently waits at the end of the route, almost teasing people emerging

from the park to go on another adventure. Exhausted her offer is reluctantly rejected, there's been enough excitement for one day.

Satisfied adults are followed by tired children with contentment on their faces and happiness in their hearts as they head for home, a new chapter of precious memories made.

*Well, it was really just a walk in the park.*



## RECORD STORE DAY IN DUMBARTON

Record Store Day took place as we went to press so Ash from Big Sparra Music Cafe gave us the low down on all things music, vinyl and what it's like to work in a coffee shop that sells records.

*What is Record Store Day?*

Ash: It's one day per year when artists release limited edition records which can only be sold by small independent stores like ours. We aren't permitted to reserve copies or sell online so it encourages people to come into the shop.

*What Release Are You Most Excited About?*

There's a new mix of Fleetwood Mac's *Tango In The Night* I'm keen to get my hands on. They're my favourite band,

we're always singing along with Stevie Nicks in the shop.

*How Do You Feel About the "Resurgence" of Vinyl?*

Records have always been a part of my life with my parents both being very into music. All my friends collect records and it's a great talking point.

One cool thing about working here, you get to meet all kinds of people who share a common interest it creates a really inclusive environment.

*What Advice Would You Give to Someone Wanting to Start Collecting Records?*

Just go for it! Come in for a coffee and a chat, we can get you started without breaking the bank.

Music is for enjoying and we're all about encouraging people here.

*For the latest records as well as snacks and the delicious coffee, drop into Big Sparra Music Cafe, 137a Glasgow Rd, Dumbarton.*



# CLYDESIDER CREATIVE DIRECTORY

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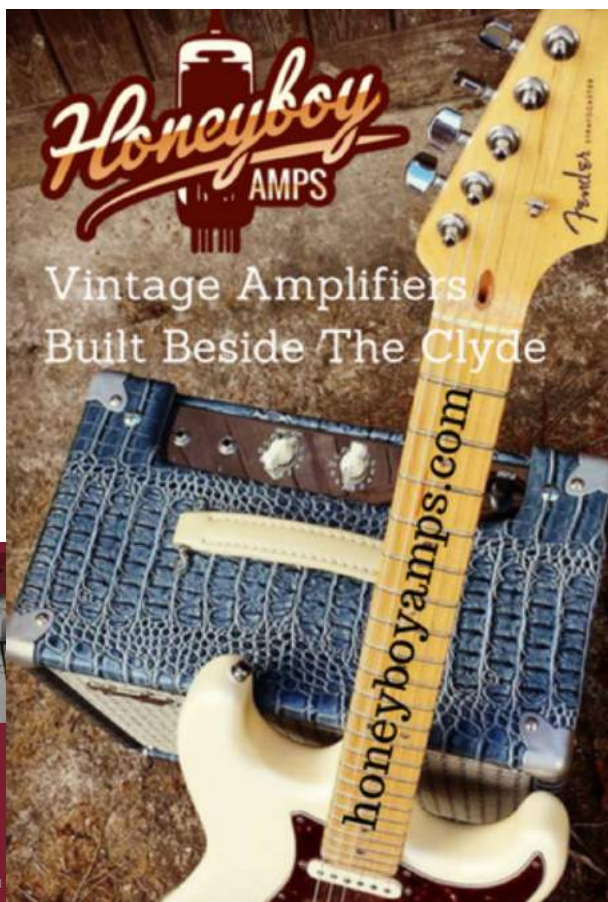
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## CLYDESIDER Mission Statement

Clydesider Creative Ltd is a social enterprise based in West Dunbartonshire. The *Clydesider* community magazine promotes the positives our area has to offer in terms of people, place, scenery and history and showcases the creative talents, ideas and experiences of local people.

### Support and Contribute to Clydesider

There is no charge for the magazine but if you like what you have read and want to support the magazine why not become a Supporting Subscriber. We have a Paypal link on our website [www.clydesider.org](http://www.clydesider.org) where you can make a small payment or, you can make a contribution by cheque.

We are always keen to hear from writers, photographers and other creative contributors in West Dunbartonshire who would like to get involved. Just drop us an email to [theclydesider@gmail.com](mailto:theclydesider@gmail.com).

### Clydesider Credits

We really are a magazine that is *for our community and by our community*, and a big thank you goes out to our fantastic team of volunteer contributors including published and novice poets, authors, journalists, photographers plus local artists, designers, cartoonists and web designers – you are a real joy to work with.

We would also like to thank all our advertisers, our supporting subscribers and social enterprise funder Firstport. You are all helping to shine a light on the good news stories and creative talents in our communities and we look forward to working with you in the future.

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Lift It. Read It. Love It.

# THE CROCUS

Birthered into melted sunshine,  
earth basking in warmth.

Light filters my colour as  
I peek above the unravelled soil.

Cirrus petals, twisting, turning,  
opening to the music of the light.

Blossom bursting with beauty.  
My stem giving me a presence.

Slender leaves grow, taking their place.

Unique and perfect.

Celebrating new life as I  
join the gathering of Spring.

By Christine Robertson





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