



Introduction

This e-bulletin is the digital newsletter for all members of the Maryburgh Amenities Company Ltd. and is designed to keep all its members informed and updated. The e-bulletin is slightly later this month due to being on holiday last week. There is not so much news this month but we now need volunteers to help with improvements to the Amenity Centre before the winter. The ceiling tiles are ready to put up all we need are a few volunteers to help. It would also be good to improve the entrance hall with some fresh paint before we replace the tiles. Anyone volunteers to help with the painting or have any suitable paint left over?



Figure 1 – River Conon flowing past the village

Building Repairs

Craig Evans has been in touch since the last e-bulletin to let me know he has the new ceiling tiles in his store and hopefully I will be able to arrange for them to be stored in the Centre soon. He also has the glass panel for the window and hopefully can fit this when the ceiling tiles are delivered. What is now needed are volunteers willing to help with the following:

- Tom Menzies still needs help to clear out the guttering.
- The broken and missing ceiling tiles need to be replaced.
- Need to Paint the walls in the entrance hall that Craig's joiner repaired in June.



Lease Transfer

As I mentioned last month the Amenities Association and latterly the Amenities Company have been trying, since June 2013, to have the lease from the Highland Council for the land the Amenities Centre and football pitch are on transferred to the Amenities Company. The legal process was completed in June and last month all the paperwork was submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for the name of the charity to be changed from the Maryburgh Amenities Association to Maryburgh Amenities Company. Hopefully this stage of the transfer will not take so long as the previous process.

Fund Raising



The Gala Day was a very successful event with some lessons learned by the organising committee for the future. The Gala raised between £5,500 and £6,000 this year and is the most successful fundraising event organised each year to help maintain the Amenities Centre.

The Amenities Committee who organised the successful Gala are taking a well needed break but will resume their meetings again after the summer to discuss future fundraising events. If anyone wants to help and be involved please don't hesitate to get in touch. The committee are always in need of more volunteers. If you have any ideas for fundraising then please contact either Nick Thornton or Eilidh Green directly, alternatively contact the Board of Directors at the email address below or drop a note into the Amenities Centre letter box.

The Stage One funding application is now with the Big Lottery Fund. We were notified on the 14 July that our application had been processed and was awaiting a funding officer to assess it. Due to the high volume of applications this could take between 12 and 14 weeks before we find out if we have been successful.

In anticipation that our application might not be successful the Futures Group are now looking into contingency plans to investigate alternative business options for the Amenities Centre, old school building and land within the centre of the village.

Thoughts for Future

The Gala day raised nearly £6,000 and hall lets raised another £3,700, which is an amazing amount of money, for the upkeep of the Amenities Centre. With the effort of a few volunteers, professionals and amateurs we are at the moment able to keep the Centre open for community activities such as the Maryburgh Rainbows, Maryburgh Brownies Youth Group, Maryburgh Football Club and private functions throughout the year.

But, like this year's weather there is a dark cloud on the horizon. Our heating bill for the year up until the end of this June was nearly £6,400. The cost of employing a part time cleaner was nearly another £2,500, while our legal and accountants fees cost us nearly £2,000.

Unless we can either reduce our annual costs or increase our income the future of the Amenities Centre is uncertain. The running costs of the Amenities Centre are not funded by the Highland Council.

The Maryburgh Amenities Company is investigating alternative sources of cheaper heating, but we also need to attract new activities and community uses for the Centre.

To attract new users the building condition needs to be improved. The long term plan is to redevelop the building and make it more flexible, but immediate improvements are needed.

Repairs are already underway and are detailed above, but more help is needed to improve the building and the facilities.

The continued sustainability of the Centre is dependent on volunteers within the village.



Figure 2 - Proposed Community Centre Refurbishment Floor Plan