



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. What an eventful month. Since I wrote the June e-bulletin so much has happened in the village. Volunteers have come forward and work has started on refurbishment of the Community Centre. The Skateboard funding was unfortunately unsuccessful, but our application has now been submitted online to the Big Lottery Fund for Stage 1 funding. After two years of trying the lease on the land has finally been transferred to the Maryburgh Amenities Company and investigations have started on trying to find a solution to the Community Centre heating.



Figure 1 – Maryburgh Bicentennial Gala Saturday

Building Repairs

After letting the members of the Maryburgh Amenities Company know about the problems identified during the building inspection in May, several offers and help have been received. Within a few days of the last e-bulletin being published I received an email from Craig Evans a local resident who asked me for the full report of the problems. On Friday the 5th June Craig arrived at the Centre along with a roofer and joiner who work for James Evans & Sons Ltd. Dingwall. They set to work repairing the store room extension roof, removed the broken widow unit in the changing room to get a replacement and repaired the holes that had been punched through the wall panels in the entrance hall. Craig also measured the ceiling panels to

try and source replacements, which I have heard since he has done. These still need to be fitted. Any offers?



Craig is not the only volunteer. Eilidh contacted me to say a local plumber had been in touch and would take a look at the damaged downpipes. Nick Thornton turned up at the Centre and spent one lunch break cleaning out the inspection chamber from the Ladies toilet which has now been unblocked. Tom Menzies has now managed to get some help to support his ladder while he cleans out the gutters. There is still some guttering to be cleared, but most of larger plants and trees have been removed. Tom has also replaced a short length of drainage downpipe at the rear of the building.

There is still some work to be done but on behalf of the community I would like to thank all the volunteers who offered their time and all their efforts last month.

Lease Transfer

Since March of this year I have been trying to get the lease of the land the Centre and the football pitch occupy transferred from the Maryburgh Amenities Association to the Maryburgh Amenities Company. Before I became involved Nick Thornton had already been trying since June 2013 to get the Highland Council to arrange for the lease to be transferred. After two years we finally got the legal process completed this month and the final asset of the Amenities Association transferred to the Company. The next step is now that all the assets have been transferred is to get OSCR to transfer the charity status of the Association over to the Company.

Lottery Funding



Unfortunately the Aviva Community Fund applications to raise money for the village skateboarders was unsuccessful, but after nearly 18 months of work the Maryburgh Futures Group have submitted the application for Stage 1 Big Lottery Funding. Along with the project development plans & costings and the original business case, a letter of support from the Tina Dempster the unit leader of the 1st Maryburgh Rainbows and 1st Maryburgh Brownies was submitted. Donald Stuart the Secretary of the Maryburgh Football Club also provided a very detailed and helpful email which was also passed to the Lottery in support of our application. The Maryburgh Futures Group was also promised a letter of support from the Ben Wyvis Community Centre, but this failed to materialise.

Heating System

I have also been busy this month investigating options for improving our Community Centre heating.



Figure 2 - image courtesy of Mister GC at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

In May I attended the Korrie Renewables Energy Expo 2015 in Inverness to try and find out a bit more about energy options such as Air Source Heat pumps, Solar Thermal, Solar PV and Biomass Boilers.

In June Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie held a Renewable Energy Conference in Inverness. Although their Renewable Energy Team specialise in Wind Turbines and Hydro Schemes the title of the conference was "Collaboration and Communities" so I attended to find about possible funding options.

While discussing the improvements needed to the Centre with Craig Evans he suggested I contact Ian Cruden at Cruden Renewable Energy Solutions.

I attended a meeting with Ian on Tuesday 23 June at his office in Muir of Ord. He has suggested some options that the Maryburgh Futures Group might need to consider seriously, especially if our Lottery funding is unsuccessful.

Gala Day

This year's gala day was a great success again. The Amenities Committee have worked extremely hard over the last few months and this year's bicentennial Gala week was a fantastic event. If you didn't attend any of the events you really missed out. Photos and video of the event is available to view on the Maryburgh Facebook page.



Figure 3 - Our Bicentennial flag flying at the Gala