

MENSTRIE COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

Annual Report 2025-26



Board MESSAGE

We have now celebrated over 7 years of Community management of Our Dumyat Centre after Clackmannanshire Council stated at short notice it would be closed resulting in a community led campaign and the establishment of MCAG as a local community charity. We continue to appreciate and respond to the continued support from our community and beyond. Without them our fantastic community asset would not be here. The facility, its programmes and activities are critical parts of our community and will only continue to develop and evolve with their support

Our goal as an organisation is to ensure that Menstrie is a vibrant, active community, to support community, to support the health and wellbeing of the village and improve the lives and opportunities of members of the community.

The last year has seen consolidation of our Board. Board members currently are: Jon Doig, Theresa Williamson, Eileen Turnbull, Aileen Ferguson, Callum Ford, Anne Clark, Penny Casey and Caroline Crawford.

As in previous years we would like to thank specific people for their efforts during 2025/26.

After a review of staffing, our part-time Centre Manager Natasha Reynolds has been joined by Kirsty Greig as Operations Manager. Both bring knowledge and enthusiasm as the public face of the Centre enabling us to continue to expand our services while delivering core operating requirements.

Natasha and Kirsty continue to be supported by a small number of casual staff who step in when required. We are particularly proud that we can continue to give young people a start in gaining workplace experience and skills.

Once again, we pay tribute to all our incredible Volunteers helping on the Board, reception areas, library, with cleaning and at events and fundraising, all so vital to not only to the running of the Centre but ensuring we give a local touch for our local users. We would like to give a special mention to Louise, Julie, Lesley, Sue, Dan and Irene for their time and commitment over the last year along with local students on Duke of Edinburgh Award placements. We know many of our volunteers also volunteer with other local groups and we are always grateful for your time.

Their efforts continue to make our building, a physical place, into a living community hub.

We are always looking for more help so if you can contribute and want to meet new people, get in touch.

We also acknowledge support of Council staff along with the other local Community Centres who face similar challenges and are always willing to share ideas and experiences

Finally, we would also like to thank our external partners like the Community Council, CTSI and our amazing centre users whether those hiring or using the Centre on a one off for a birthday party or event or those with us on a regular basis such as the Toddlers Group, Crown Dance and Zumba with Ian, and not least of all those dropping in from the community and beyond who enjoy this special place in the heart of our Village.

The Board trustees present their report, incorporating their strategic report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The associated financial statements have independently reviewed and been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the charitable company's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2015.

MCAG Purpose

Menstrie Community Action Group was formed to benefit the community of Menstrie, Clackmannanshire with the following Objects:

- The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended; and
- In the provision of the above to ensure that Menstrie is a vibrant, active community, to support the health and wellbeing of the village and improve the lives and opportunities of members of the community.

The beneficiaries of our activities are the Menstrie Community. In particular, the Centre hosts many activities for children and young people, older people, people with disabilities and/or long-term health problems and provides a setting that is used by other charities and voluntary bodies.

Operated by MCAG on a 25-year lease from Clackmannanshire Council issued in 2021 following a period under a license to occupy, Our Dumyat Centre is central to Menstrie life and is easily reached by walking or cycling from surrounding housing and nearby villages. It is located on the edge of the A91 in the middle of Menstrie and was built in 1990. It sits in a Council run public park used for sport and community events and a small public children's playground with a recently redeveloped large car park with electric charging and bike shelters.

The Centre contains a reception, Community Lounge Space incorporating a library, a small meeting room, a large Community meeting room, kitchen area, Gym Hall marked with two badminton courts, Boccia, 5aside football, Netball and Basketball and TRX points. We have two sports changing rooms and separate male, female and disabled toilet area. The venue has flat access throughout with no steps or ramps.

We also recognise our key role in providing the only public toilets in the area, these are available when the Centre is open- continuing to providing a welcoming core service for visitors and local key workers.

Activity during 2025/26

Core

In the last year we have been able to achieve the following to deliver opportunities for our community to engage, improve social interaction and cohesion, get fit, learn new skills, receive information about community activities and services.

- Operated MCAG as a charitable company meeting requirements associated with this.
- Reviewed and redeveloped operational policies and procedures
- Recruited, engaged and supported a committed group of volunteers
- Revamped the interior and exterior look and feel of the building and sourced funding and implemented much needed repairs and new equipment

Building improvements

Running a large building continues to be an ongoing challenge with regular service, repairs and maintenance. While keeping on top of this we are pleased to report that wider improvements to the Centre equipment continue to be made utilising local trades where possible.

With support from the EDF Burnfoot fund managed through Foundation Scotland we have upgraded our internal and external security system.

The major focus of this year has been on raising funds to replace our Hall floor. We were proud to have achieved this, raising funds through our own fundraising and through grants from the UK Government Communities and Places Fund, CSET and Foundation Scotland. The floor was installed in January 2026 and has made a major impact on quality of Centre use.

We have gone ahead proceeded with plans to operate an e-bike library. The bikes are now purchased and staff trained and ready to launch the scheme thanks to the support of Forth Environment Link and Clackmannanshire Council.

The importance of the Centre operating as a warm welcoming functional space remains as we continue to be ready to act an emergency shelter if required and liaise with the Menstrie Resilience Group as needed on these requirements.

Community Library

Louise Cannon and her team of volunteers continue to provide a fantastic Community library service, and associated programmes such as a regular Book Bug and Lego Club.

The library continues to welcome pupils and teachers from the local Early Learning Centre and Menstrie Primary School and as they start and continue their reading journey.

Book donations from authors, publishers and local people continue to ensure our library stock is refreshed with excess stock sold for fundraising and the library remains free for all users.

Advice and Information services

Our friendly staff and volunteers are always on hand to provide advice and direction for locals and visitors.

Aside from library reference materials, we continue to provide a site for community notices and information on local facilities, businesses events and services.

We continue to provide printing and photocopying on request for a small charge.

Over the last year we contributed to several Council consultations on leisure provision and most importantly to development of the new 2025-2030 Menstrie Community Action Plan and Local Place Plan. This new version continues to recognise the importance of the Centre to village and wider community life.

Events and Activities

We remain a key event space with many activities ranging from hosting the Village Gala to the many local birthday parties being held in the large hall and community space.

While not responsible for the adjacent sports field, car park and playground, with Council support we continue to take bookings for events on the field such as football games and Dog Shows providing use of the Dumyat Centre indoor halls and the toilets changing and kitchen facilities.

Internal meeting space is well used for regular community meetings including CTSI Community events, Bingo, Climate Change forums and Community Council meetings.

In recognition of the need for more community activities over school holidays in 2026 and 2026 we operated successful October, February, and Easter holiday Activity programmes in conjunction with our key lets.

Activities recently or currently hosted by community groups or small enterprises or directly provided in the last year include:

Annual Village Gala and associated events, Library, Upcycling Day Bookbugs, Craft Conversations, Senior Circuits TRX and Circuit Training Classes, afternoon and evening Zumba with Ian, Baby College Forth Valley, World Refugee Week event, associated events and activities, Senior Table Tennis, Badminton, Homestart, Crown Dance (Tiny Tots Dance, Junior Stage Dance, Creative Dance, Intermediate Stage Dance, Tiny Tots Freestyle Disco and Pom Dance, Acro and Pom 6+, Pop Dance, Tots Dance and Performance) Highland Dance with Emily, Menstrie Toddler Group, Football- 5 aside, Ceilidhs, , Chair Exercise with EK fitness, Mid Month Reset Sound Bath, Sister Circle, Bingo, Innerpeace Meditation Class, Musicbugs, Citizens Advice Bureau, CTSI meetings, EDF Burnfoot Hill grant meeting, Paddleball, Family Arts and Crafts, Clackmannanshire Family Support drop in,

Rollerbeats Disco and Family Roller Skating Club. Lessons, Zone 60 Exercise classes, author events, Baby and Child First Aid classes, Dog Shows.

We continue to host a donation Pod for Home Start Clackmannanshire for new or nearly new items.

We remain committed to working with community groups and small business activities to provide space and support to try ideas and small business opportunities.

Communication

We were delighted during the year to design and launch our new website.

MCAG and Centre activities are advertised through the Centre and on our own Facebook site and that of the Community Council and via the quarterly village magazine Menstrie Matters. We are currently working to reinstall our exterior notice board.

Funding

We are funded by income from activities and grants and are continually seeking a balance between meeting operating costs and building a rainy day reserve while keeping expenses low to make the Centre welcome and affordable for a range of users and those booking to run activities. We regularly benchmark against other local providers to ensure we are competitive whilst remaining viable.

With the current cost of living crisis this remains an ongoing challenge as cost rise for both the Centre and for our users.

Our income across the year is still variable meaning a continuing requirement to seek external funding through grants for operational activity and capital requirements.

For this, we are particularly grateful to the following organisations for their financial support both large and small over the last year.

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust (CSET)
UK Government- Community and Places Fund
Clackmannanshire Council
EDF Burnfoot Fund
Menstrie Community Council micro grants
Small grants programme in conjunction with Foundation Scotland

We are also grateful for small individual financial donations, equipment and time donated from local people and businesses.

Future 2025/26

We look forward to our next 12 months with our goals being to

- Upgrading of the changing facilities and installing a Changing Places toilet

- Commence our e-bike library
- Expand opening times subject to demand and cover providing greater public access to toilet facilities
- Replenish reserves to meet rainy day and grant matching
- Increase our volunteer pool from the local community including our Board membership.
- Maximise centre use particularly having different rooms being used at the same time-increasing revenue and range of activities offered while reducing costs
- Equipment purchase and upgrades
- Investigate Community asset transfer options and funding

The MCAG Board

