

Report: To Hillhead Area Partnership 20/3/2025

Libraries and Community Development Team brief activities and events update for ward 11 Hillhead

## **International Men's Day Nov 2024 Event at Kelvin Hall**

### Overview

The Community Development Team hosted a significant event for International Men's Day (IMD) 2024 at Kelvin Hall, focusing on the theme of addressing toxic masculinity and celebrating positive male role models in the West of Scotland. The event successfully brought together local communities, organisations, and individuals to raise awareness, share experiences, and foster better outcomes for men's health, wellbeing, and societal roles.

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### Event Highlights

- Panel Discussion:

The event featured a thought-provoking panel discussion with:

- Darren McGarvey – Author and social commentator.
- Zander Murray – The first Scottish professional footballer to come out as gay.
- Anne Hughes CEO of Men Matters

- Hosted by Sean McDonald, presenter of the Bleathered podcast, which attracts thousands of listeners.

This discussion provided a platform to challenge toxic masculinity narratives and promote positive male identities.

- Media Coverage:

The panel discussion was aired as a stand-alone episode on Bleathered podcast

The event received extensive and positive coverage from The Bell, a newly established online newspaper, which further amplified its impact.

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### Attendance & Engagement

- Approximately 100 attendees participated in the panel discussion and activities, with many being first-time visitors to Kelvin Hall.

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## Participating Organisations

Several Glasgow-based agencies and organisations supported the event through stalls and outreach activities:

- Maryhill Integration Network
  - SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health)
  - Live Well
  - Growing 21
  - Volunteer Glasgow
  - AMIS (Abused Men in Scotland)
  - GVVT Recovery Group
  - West Scotland Equality Council
  - Andy's Man Club
  - Men Matters
  - Youthlink Scotland
  - Dads Rock
  - Papyrus (Youth suicide prevention)
  - North West Recovery Group / WAWY
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## Key Issues Addressed

The event highlighted pressing issues affecting men's wellbeing:

- Suicide rate: Men have a suicide rate three times higher than women.
- Life expectancy: Men die 4-5 years earlier than women on average.

The rise in Toxic Masculinity as a cultural influence on young people and its detrimental effect to individuals and society.

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## Event Objectives

The IMD event at Kelvin Hall was aligned with the following objectives:

1. Promote Positive Male Role Models: Emphasising not just celebrities but everyday working-class men leading decent, honest lives.
2. Celebrate Men's Contributions: Recognising men's roles in society, community, family, marriage, childcare, and environmental stewardship.
3. Focus on Men's Health and Wellbeing: Addressing social, emotional, physical, and spiritual health.
4. Highlight Discrimination Against Men: Exploring discrimination in social services, societal expectations, and legal contexts.
5. Improve Gender Relations and Promote Gender Equality.

The IMD 2024 event at Kelvin Hall successfully achieved its aims of fostering positive discussions around men's issues, promoting inclusivity, and encouraging community support and learning. It was well-attended, well-received, and enhanced by strong partnerships with local organisations and ongoing community learning programmes.

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## **Additional Community Learning & Activities**

Adult Learning (ALN)

- A mixed ability ALN class runs weekly at Hillhead Library (Mondays, 10:00 – 12:00).
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## **Library-Based Community Engagement**

Partick Library – Free Events & Activities

A variety of weekly and monthly activities are offered, including:

- Job & Business Support
  - ESOL Classes
  - Digi-Pal Digital Skills Sessions
  - Bookbug Sessions
  - Chess Club
  - Horror & Other Book Groups
  - Infant Feeding Group
  - Class Visits & Family Games
  - CAB Drop-ins and MP Surgeries
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Hillhead Library

Weekly and monthly activities include:

- Adult Learning & ALN Sessions

- Book Groups (Scottish Writers, Horror, U3A, and more)
  - Digi-Pal Digital Support
  - Winter Warmers Initiatives
  - Art Workshops, Gaelic Events, Kids Crafts, and Family Games
  - Community Engagement with Councillors & Volunteer Groups
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#### Woodside Library

- Weekly Adult Learning (Thursdays)
  - Weekly ESOL Class (Fridays)
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