

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

*The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet*

April 2015 No 31

## PARKING ISSUES

A number of residents have asked us to raise the issue of inconsiderate parking again!

**The area round the Coop** can still be a nightmare and the CC is pursuing the Coop and Stirling Council to find ways of alleviating the problems. Part of the solution - especially in the kind of weather we have had recently - might be to walk or cycle to the shop. If you do have to take a vehicle, please remember that people live next to the Coop and should be able to park near their homes.

**Milndavie Crescent** is constantly brought to our attention and recently featured on the village Facebook page. Please consider your neighbours when parking here. If a number of residents think it might be useful the Community Council would be happy to host a meeting to help find a way forward.

**Parking around the school** at opening and closing times continues to create dangers for children and great inconvenience to others. At 3pm the Library carpark commonly overflows on to the roadway (and footway) in Kirkburn Drive. (The photos show some of the 36 cars parked around the school at 3pm on a dry day in November) The Parent Council is on the case and is surveying parents to find the best way to resolve the issue. The CC (and the Path Development Group) are keen to do what we can to help.

Our much missed ex-Community PC, David McNally, often pointed out that driving onto a footway is a road traffic offence. No-one is looking for prosecutions, just **proper consideration for pedestrians**. Remember parking in the road helps slow down traffic.



**The May Community Council Meeting** is on the 11th at 7.30 in the school. The Agenda will include further discussion of the consultation on community priorities which stems from the Community Summit. Please come along and give us your views

**Why not join the growing number of local businesses and individuals who SPONSOR issues of the Bulletin?**  
Businesses can include an advertising insert which goes to every household, Contact [cc@strathblainfield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblainfield.org.uk) for more details.

*Your Signatures Needed.....*

## Walkers are Welcome

Both the SCC and the Development Trust have unanimously backed the proposal that Strathblane & Blanefield should join the national *Walkers are Welcome* scheme. We are already seeing an increase in walkers through the village because of the opening of the John Muir Way — Strathblane is the only point this cross country path hits Stirlingshire—and that will increase as the route becomes more established.

The main community benefits would come in attracting more custom for local businesses (and perhaps for new businesses— B & B?), in making it easier for the community both to attract funding to maintain and improve the local paths network and helping the Community Council campaign to improve bus services.

The area already fulfils the main criteria to qualify but we will do at least 5% of community members to register support. So please sign up on the sheets available in the Library and in general circulation.



## COME & TRY DAY

### With BARBEQUE

**Strathblane Bowling Club**

**Sunday, 31st May, 2.00 pm**

Why not get fit and have fun with a friendly game of Bowls?

An enjoyable social activity packed with fresh air & exercise –and a sport for all the family, in the company of others!

COME ALONG AND TRY IT UNDER FRIENDLY SUPERVISION (Flat soled shoes will be required)  
Membership at a substantial discount for first year!

**Copy Date** for the April BVB is Monday May 18th.  
Please send Calendar items and news to

[cc@strathblainfield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblainfield.org.uk)

**This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by  
the Village Club**

## Community Council April Update

from SCC Chair Margaret Vass

April's was another busy meeting, well attended by residents. We are unusual amongst CCs in having a set of regular attendees and although the BVB gives us accountability to the community we would be delighted if more people came along to the meetings. This meeting was typical in covering a range of issues of importance to the whole community.

Some **serious concerns were raised**. It is hard to believe that valued medical staff are being abused and local medical services put in jeopardy. Such **abuse and threatening anonymous letters** are completely unacceptable. If anyone has an issue there is a formal way to have it dealt with. Real worries were also raised about **vandalism and underage drinking** in the school playground and playing field area. Broken glass has been regularly collected and concerns were expressed over the longer-term effects on children who get into trouble with the police. Building dens may be a part of growing up, but it is not acceptable to leave tents, pillows, cans and bottles for others to clear up.

More positively we agreed to back an application to join the **Walkers are Welcome** scheme; and were pleased to hear that **Cala will start work on the Campsie Rd housing site** around April 27th. The affordable housing is due to start in the late summer. If you are interested in renting a house make sure that your name is on BOTH Rural Stirling HA and Stirling Council lists. We heard from Cllr Muirhead that **the 'missing link' on the A81 will be resurfaced** sometime this year. We will then push for both entrances to the village to be done next year. resurfacing will also happen on the A81 at Douchlage Lodge and on the B821 at Carbeth Loch. **Fast Broadband** will arrive later this year — it is important that you register an interest in it with BT.

The **petition for road safety measures on the Stockiemuir Road** around the junction with the Cuilt Road will be submitted to Stirling Council this week—thanks to 79 signatories (we could've got more but the requirement was only 25). We are working on actions which emerged from the Village Summit and in the next BVB will consult on whether the Community Action Plan priorities remain the right ones and whether there is a consensus for others to be added.

## VILLAGE ACTIVE

You don't have to go out of the village to exercise. We have the venue for activities of all sorts, even for dogs! A week in the calendar is varied and if you want to have a new activity there are still spare slots for new ventures.

—**Monday** (6.30 - 9.30pm) starts with **Scallyways**, dog training, run by Karen Brown and gives both you and your pet a chance to socialise (07852 728211).

—**Tuesday**, Elaine Grantham runs a **Yoga** class (9.45-10.45am) if you want to go just turn up or check with Elaine (07432 650396), later Karen McCrory (07766073675) has a energetic **MetaFit** class from 07.15pm for half an hour.

—**Wednesday** there is a private art group all morning and from 7.30-9.00pm our, no audition, singing group **Campsie Crooners** will welcome you, men are under-represented in this fun group; Barbara Fleming ([crooners@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:crooners@strathblanefield.org.uk)). —

—**Thursday** sees Jane Meek and **Pilates** at two times (9.30 - 11.00am and 8.00 - 9.30pm). Jane can be contacted at [janemfr@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janemfr@tiscali.co.uk). In the afternoon Debbie Green runs an art class **Young at Art** for school age children at 3.30pm; contact Debbie at 07962 212244. On Friday Karen McCrory runs her second **MetaFit** class (9.30 - 10.00am).

—**Saturday** Jane Button ([j4vox@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:j4vox@tiscali.co.uk) 07968968944) has a **Zumba** class from 10.00 to 11.00am.

—**Sunday** afternoon once a month is the **Village Jam session** which has nothing to do with the WRI, but has lots of locals who try to play music. George Thom organises this and welcomes all comers [Gethom@Tiscali.com](mailto:Gethom@Tiscali.com).

There are lots of opportunities for new activities, please contact me if you want to try running a class in the Village Club. The Village Club committee tries to run the Club with two aims, keep it affordable and update the facilities. We have had the car park tarmac-ed and repaired it with the tennis club after a recent burst. We plan to join the 21st century and install WiFi and hope this will soon be available. Our AGM is on May 21st at 7.30pm and we'd welcome new committee members.

The Village Club is a beautiful building, the only community building of real architectural merit. It is held in trust by Stirling Council and it belongs to all of us. And it remains a great place for a party.

To check availability, book or get more information contact

Keith Vass – [keithvass13@gmail.com](mailto:keithvass13@gmail.com) 770131

Elsbeth Neill – [elsbethneill@gmail.com](mailto:elsbethneill@gmail.com) 771653

## Emergency Phone Numbers

Ambulance — 999 Fire — 999 NHS 24 — 202 Police — 999 [for non-emergency calls - 101]

**MAKING CONTACT with the SCC Email** us at [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)

**Get in touch with your Community Councillors**

*Blanefield Ward*

Margaret Vass 770131

Avril Keen 07799261297

Willie Oswald 770497

Julie Hutchison 770791

*Strathblane Ward*

Alan Hutton 770537

Marian Lever 770536

Elsbeth Neill 771653

Sue Rand 770630

*Mugdock Ward*

Richard Arnold 770006

Philip Graves 0141 9561954

and

**TWO VACANCIES**

**INFORMATION SOURCES:** Strathblanefield website at [www.strathblanefield.org.uk](http://www.strathblanefield.org.uk)

Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; and the **Facebook** Strathblanefield Group

## STIRLING COUNCIL

**Councillors'**

**Surgeries** are usually at 7pm on SCC meeting nights in the Primary School

**Report faults** at [info@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:info@stirling.gov.uk) or ring 0845 2777000

**Join My Stirling** at

# Strathblanefield Community Development Trust

**Greenheart**— The latest phase of the play-park has been completed with the installation of a circular tree seat. The seat, which forms a most attractive addition to the park has been manufactured by Stirling Council.

**Pump Track**— The pump track has now been set up again for the summer season in the play-park.

**Bothy**— A site meeting has taken place and, once conveyancing has been completed, consultation will take place on a final layout for the building and its environs. That will be followed by the necessary planning and building warrant applications.

**Community Football Club**— Using some of the surpluses from the sales of the paths leaflet and the Now and Then book SCDT have provided funding for equipment — including balls, goals and nets for the Community Football Club.

**Walkers are Welcome** — along with the SCC SCDT has backed the idea of applying for accreditation for our community in the *Walkers are Welcome* scheme (see P. 1).

## The SCDT Annual General Meeting

will be held on Tuesday June 2nd at 7pm in the Village Club. All members are invited.

**Path Development Group** — reports some progress since the March issue:

— We have now received an additional grant—from the Asda Plastic bag Community Fund—towards the cost of a feasibility study for the repair of **Danny's Brae**, and we should be able to go ahead with the study in the next month.

— We are still awaiting the formal go-ahead from the Scottish Water Legal Department for the new **Link Path** from the railway track to the Gowk Stane Road. Our target is still to complete the path by the summer, and Scottish Natural Heritage are keen to make it a part of the John Muir Way.

The **Scary Path Video** is complete and should soon be available on the Paths for All website and on Youtube!

**'A Village Remembers'**— All the research material, photographs, related articles, books, diaries, CDs & spreadsheets with information about the 27 men on the War Memorial, have now been placed in Strathblane library for reference. Lynne James can arrange access to the material.

## STRATHBLANE LIBRARY BIDS FAREWELL TO ISOBEL *Lynne James writes:*

As some of you already know, Isobel Beveridge has decided to leave the library service and take early retirement. This will give her a chance to enjoy more golf, walks and, most importantly, time with her family, in particular the newest addition, her wee grandson!. Isobel has been a great asset to Strathblane library for the last eight years and we will all miss her smiling face and her kind and helpful nature. With characteristic shyness, Isobel wanted to be allowed to leave without any kind of fuss but I am sure many of you would like to wish her well in her (very) early retirement and happy future as a doting Granny! There is a card in the library for anyone who wishes to sign it and I have no doubt that you will still see Isobel in the library on the other side of the counter from now on!

## POWER BALLADS & KARAOKE NIGHT

A night of ultimate mass Karaoke, this incredible social event is a night dedicated to the Power Ballad.

Don't Want to Miss a Thing? — **Blanefield Village Club,**  
**Saturday 6 June, 7:30pm - 11:45pm**

In the Air Tonight? — **Fish and Chip Supper**  
Poison? — **BYO drinks, glasses and bottle opener**  
Can't Fight This Feeling?

**Bring your air guitars and sing your hearts out!**

Tickets £10 'available mid May from Barbara Fleming... [croon-ers@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:croon-ers@strathblanefield.org.uk) or Strathblane Library

**Community Cafe** — in the Kirk Rooms every Tuesday morning from 9.15 to 12 noon.

**Youth Sports** — for P5 to S2 in the Edmonstone Hall every Wednesday—more details from Richard Begg.

## CATARAN YOMP *Richard Begg writes:*

A team from the village is taking part in the Cataran Yomp (36 miles in 24 hours) to raise money for the Soldiers Charity (The Army Benevolent Fund). If you would like to sponsor then please go to the web page.

<http://fundraising.soldierscharity.org/Strath-blaneyomp1>

Thank you in advance for your support.

The **2015 SUMMER FAYRE** will take place on  
**Saturday 6th June from 12 to 3pm**  
in the School Grounds

It will feature: large inflatables, Dog Show & Photo Competition, A performance by The Campsie Crooners, Toy Tombolas & Game stalls, Toddler Play Area, Burgers & Hot Dogs, 'Blane Valley' Beer Tent, Homebaking & 'Bake Off' Competition, Duck Race Finale & much, much more!

**EVERYONE WELCOME - A FUN DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!**

Whilst the event is mainly a Strathblane Nursery & Primary School Fundraiser **the Community Council and the Community Development Trust** will be there to ask more people their views on future priorities for the community as we update the Community Action Plan.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## APRIL

SAT 25th	2pm —	<b>Strathblane Tennis Club Open Day</b> New members welcome. For further details contact Graeme 771571, Sally 771031
WED 29th		<b>Youth Sports</b> for P5 to S2 in the Edmonstone Hall - <b>and every Tuesday</b>
WED 29th	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. All welcome

## MAY

MON 4th	7am	<b>Early Morning Service</b> at Strathblane Church.
WED 6th	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. New members welcome
SAT 9th	10-12	<b>Spring Fayre</b> in the Kirk Rooms. Hidden treasures, baking, plants. Proceeds to Crossreach. Tickets £3 (includes tea and coffee) from Guild Committee members or at the door.
SUN 10th	1 — 5pm	<b>Village Jam Session</b> in the Village Club All Welcome. Contact George: <a href="mailto:Gethom@Tiscali.com">Gethom@Tiscali.com</a>
MON 11th	10.30am	<b>Bookbug</b> visits Fun Hut for rhymes songs and stories for babies and toddlers
MON 11th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council</b> in the Primary school. All welcome.
MON 11th	7.30pm	<b>Alex Norton (Taggart)</b> in conversation with Lynne James and reading excerpts from his autobiography: 'There's Been a Life' in Drymen Church Hall (part of 'Off the Page' Festival)
WED 13th	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. New members welcome
THURS 14th	1.30 -3pm	<b>Drop-in Session</b> in Strathblane Library to learn how to load E books and Zinio magazines on your Android or E reader. (Not suitable for Kindle readers)
FRI 15th	1.30pm	<b>Storytime for under 5s</b> in Strathblane Library
TUES 19th	7.30pm	<b>Book Group</b> in the Strathblane Library discussing 'The Humans' by Matt Haig
WED 20th	2.30pm	<b>Bedtime Bookbug</b> in Strathblane Library — A special cuddle up Bookbug session to celebrate National Bookbug Week. Bookbug wants some snuggly rhymes and stories for bedtime and as he is bringing his pyjamas and favourite teddy, you can too!
WED 20th	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. New members welcome
WED 20th	7pm	<b>Celtic Music Night</b> - Alana Reid and Shona Masson (small pipes, fiddle and keyboards) at Strathblane Country House Hotel
SUN 25th	3pm	<b>Messy Church</b> in the Kirk Rooms. Suggested donation £8 per family includes a meal.
WED 27th	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. New members welcome
SUN 31st	2pm	<b>Come and Try - with Barbecue</b> at Strathblane Bowling Club Try under friendly supervision - flat shoes required. Substantial discount for first year of membership!

## JUNE

SAT 6th	12 -3pm	<b>Summer Fayre</b> in the School grounds (Strathblane Nursery & Primary school Fundraiser (see P3 for details)
SAT 6th	7.30-11.45	<b>Power Ballads &amp; Karaoke Night</b> in the Village Club. Tickets £10 (see p3 above)

The Blane Valley Bulletin is published monthly (with the exceptions of July and December) by Strathblane Community Council and distributed to all households in our community council area. It is produced and distributed by a group of volunteers led by Alan Hutton and accountable to the Community Council. Contact us at [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)