

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

March 2015 No 30

## Community Summit Success

On Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> the Community Summit — hosted by the SCC with help from SCDT Board members and facilitated by Stirling Council staff led by Pam Campbell.— was attended by 55 invited representatives covering almost all the voluntary organisations and groups in the community.

Participants were split into six groups and animated discussion covered (a) the issues facing voluntary organisations – obstacles and challenges; (b) the things that would make life easier for the operation of their groups (and possibly to encourage other groups to form); and (c) more generally what people would prioritise for community development for the next few years.

Many useful and constructive suggestions emerged and, more generally, there was a feeling amongst delegates that they had met some others for the first time, shared experiences and common problems and, possibly that, in some form this kind of exercise could usefully take place on a regular basis.

This was a first - very productive - stage in the consultation of community members on updating the Community Action Plan, first agreed in 2011. Stages 2 and 3 will take the form of information and invitation to respond in the May BVB and the use of SCC and SCDT stalls at the Summer Fair in June to inform and get feedback particularly from younger community members.

**The April Community Council Meeting** is on the 13th at 7.30 in the Kirk Rooms. The Agenda will include outcomes from summit, planning application Auchenburg House, report back from Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee. Come along and give us your views.

### Congratulations to Anne

On June 6 Anne will collect a Personal Achievement Award at the annual conference of the British Association of Local History in Birmingham in recognition of her great work on *A Village Remembers* and *Strathblane & Blanefield Now & Then*.

### Grow Your Own This Year?

After the annual re-shuffle, we still have two or three plots at the allotments for anyone wishing to grow their own vegetables fruit or flowers. To find out more email jopatrick@waitrose.com or phone Jo on 770556.

## Your Signatures Needed.....

**A809 Petition** — As we report on page 2, the SCC agreed in March to petition Stirling Council to do something about "making the most dangerous road in Scotland safer" before a fatality occurs. Please add your signature when the petition is circulated.

**Walkers are Welcome** — At their next meetings the SCC and the Development Trust will be considering a proposal that Strathblane & Blanefield should join the national *Walkers are Welcome* scheme—we would be only the seventh designated place in Scotland. If we go ahead we will need the support of at least 5% of community members, so we would be looking for your signature again.



## Thanks to our Community Snow Clearers!

Thanks are due to Richard Begg and his team of Balfron High School pupils who, when the big snowfall came and the school was closed, did great service in clearing snow from our pavements and from the paths of elderly and vulnerable residents.

## Strathblane Tennis Club Coaching 2015

**Spring coaching** — 8 week block of teaching

SUNDAY 26th April to SUNDAY 14th June

Cost £40 (Juniors 1hr) £60 (Adult/experienced juniors 1½hr) Local Primary 1-3 pupils can get lessons 1-4 free

**Easter Camp:** Mon-Fri April 6 -10,

9am -12 Age 4-16

**Summer Camp:** Mon-Fri June 29-

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 9am-12 Age 4-16

**Enquiries:** C Jewell, Tennis Tiger

[thetoonster@hotmail.com](mailto:thetoonster@hotmail.com)

07837 339558

Booking to be made by 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Participants need to be club members (except for those on the free trial!). More details and forms for coaching and membership can be found at the club website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/strathblanetennisclub/>



**This issue of the Bulletin is part-sponsored  
by a member of the community**

**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.

## Community Council March Update *from Chair Margaret Vass*

Our March meeting was as usual busy and varied but slightly curtailed as the snow outside got heavier and heavier! We continue to receive **updates from Scottish Water** whose project is really coming to an end providing relief for everyone directly affected. The power cable is now installed and commissioning will begin. We are expecting work to reinstate paths to begin soon. Residents beside the Edmonstone Hall still regret the lack of consultation with them re the switching cabinet that has been installed. SW is funding a new connecting path to the gowkstane path a real benefit to the community.

We are making progress seeking **grant funding to repair the war memorial**. Unfortunately this is not available from just one source and it was agreed to seek community pride funding from Stirling Council as well.

We received feedback from the **Community Summit** more on this on page1 and stressed the importance of full community consultation and ownership of the vision for our community.

**Roads Priorities was our main topic:** We are agreed that our missing link of resurfaced road in the village is essential. Parking at the shops must be preserved but access for pedestrians with prams must be enhanced. To that end consideration is being to enhancing the current arrangements but with the installation of bollards to have a clear demarcation between parking and pedestrians particularly around the narrowed pavement at the bus stop. We also wish the road at the War Memorial to be done at the same time. When this is done we will get all the white lines and traffic slow signs back.

— A new pavement along Campsie road at the manse side associated with the Cala development has been confirmed along with a new pavement from Dunglass View.

— Stirling Council is giving consideration to prioritising traffic at the bridge on Station Rd to slow traffic as there have been a number of near misses with pedestrians on the bridge with cars travelling too fast and losing control. This is important as it will help SCDT's funding application for the railway track.

— We are frustrated at the time it is taking to carry out any traffic calming/management at the junction of the Stockiemuir road (A809) and the Cuilt Road (B821). This area is so dangerous that many of us do not attempt to turn right here. Stirling Council has a scheme to improve the visibility and slow traffic but no money to implement it. We agreed that we will not wait for a fatality but present a petition to Stirling Council to have this done. **Please sign the petition if you are asked to.**

— The CC is now a member of the **Joint Management Committee of Mugdock Country Park**. This will help us articulate concerns around parking and also try to ensure that our local businesses gain more benefit from the park visitors.

— The CC also agreed to give **help and support to residents in north Wales** who as no fault owners are campaigning to obtain full funding for the remediation of their contaminated gardens.

**Copy Date** for the April BVB is Monday April 20th. Please send Calendar items and news to [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)

### EDENKILN SURGERY

The surgery is closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday — April 3rd & 6th. We can be contacted at 770340.

For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website [www.edenkilnsurgery.com](http://www.edenkilnsurgery.com)

**THE VILLAGE CLUB** — available for public and private functions. To check availability, book or get more information contact Keith Vass or Elspeth Neill.

Keith Vass – keithvass13@gmail.com 770131

Elspeth Neill - [elspethneill@gmail.com](mailto:elspethneill@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

Elspeth 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

## Craigend Castle Project

Regrettably, because of business pressures, the lead member of the Craigend Castle Project no longer has the time to take the project forward and, because of other commitments no other team member has volunteered to take over that role.

The SCDT Board has therefore decided to withdraw from the project and has written to the Park Management Committee to explain its reasons for doing so and express its regrets that this excellent project would not now proceed.

The Committee has been very sympathetic to our withdrawal and has expressed its willingness to discuss further suitable projects should members of the community bring them to our attention.

**Path Development Group** — steady progress to report on all fronts:

— We have received a grant from SC Community Pride Fund towards the cost of a feasibility study for the repair of Danny's Brae.

— We are close to an agreement with Scottish Water which should see the new Link Path from the railway track to the Gowk Stane Road completed by summer.

— We are awaiting news on fund raising for the major Railway Path Upgrade

— Last week Paths for All were in the village to film a video Case Study of our Scary Path Project which they funded. Volunteers and path users were interviewed.

**Walkers are Welcome?** — see Page 1

## STRATHBLANE'S FIRST WORLD WAR BOOK RAISES THOUSANDS FOR CHARITY

from Anne Balfour

If you want to know anything about Spitfires or Doodlebugs, ask any of the P7s at Strathblane Primary School. Recently the pupils, who are learning about the Second World War, welcomed a very special visitor. Isobel Kirkwood, aged 95, was married to a World War Two Spitfire pilot and, as a young teacher in London, survived the terror of the Blitz.

Isobel was visiting Strathblane on behalf of the Scottish veterans' charity Erskine to receive a giant cheque for £5000. That's the great total raised so far by sales of *A Village Remembers*, the book about the lives of the 27 men from Strathblane who died in the First World War and who feature on the local war memorial. It was put together by the Strathblane First World War Group under the aegis of Strathblanefield Community Development Trust, which underwrote the venture.

Last November each P7 pupil "adopted" one of the men on the memorial and on Armistice Day each of them planted an inscribed small wooden Flanders cross beside the monument at the bottom of Campsie Dene Road. The boys and girls took advantage of Mrs Kirkwood's visit to quiz her about her wartime experiences and the dangers faced by her husband, Robert. She described trying to teach 50 five-year olds to read and count in a primitive air raid shelter during the Battle of Britain, emerging from a classical concert to find London on fire during the Blitz and first setting eyes on her husband-to-be at a dance at an RAF base in Devon. It was a romance conducted largely by letter, as Robert was away training in Canada and the United States and then protecting Allied bombers in North Africa and Europe. On the day they were married they had met



fewer than 20 times. "Life had to go on and we learned to adapt," she said, though she admitted that waiting for him to come home was a nerve-racking experience.

Robert was an Erskine resident for the last years of his life and since his death in 2004 Mrs Kirkwood has become one of the charity's champion fundraisers. As a former teacher, she is also involved in its educational programme, conveying to the next generation the need to support the survivors of armed conflicts as well as honouring those who died.

Meanwhile, the First World War Group is not resting on its laurels. Having discovered at least 16 more local men whose deaths in the conflict are not recorded on the local memorial, illustrated stories of their lives are being posted on the village website, [www.Strathblanefield.org.uk](http://www.Strathblanefield.org.uk). Copies of *A Village Remembers* are available from Strathblane Library, Pestle & Mortar Delicatessen or the Smithy Art Gallery. Price £10. All proceeds to Erskine.

For further information, please contact Anne Balfour:

[anne@annebalfour.com](mailto:anne@annebalfour.com)

## Strathblane Church

In addition to the Easter Events listed in the Calendar there will be a series of

### Holy Week Reflections

**Monday May 30th** 7am (with showing of The Cross by Billy Graham) in the Church

**Tuesday May 31st** 11am in the Kirk Rooms

**Wednesday April 1st** 2pm in the Church.

**Thursday April 2nd** 7am in the Church.

**Saturday April 2nd** 10am in the Church.

The next meeting of the **CAMPSIE CROONERS** is on Wed March 25th at 7.45pm in the Village Club. It costs only £2 per session.

**Its not too late to join!**

Contact us at [crooners@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:crooners@strathblanefield.org.uk) or just come along.

## Milngavie Choir Concert

**Faure: Requiem & Stainer: The Crucifixion**

**Sat March 21st 7.30pm** in New Kilpatrick Church Bearsden

Tickets £10 (Children £5) from Iron Chef, Milngavie.

Purple Edge Bearsden or at the Door

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MARCH

FRI 20th	7.30pm	<b>Blane Valley Burns Club AGM</b> and at <b>8.15</b> by a <b>Quiz Night</b> in Edmonstone Hall (see Flyer)
SUN 22nd	1 - 5pm	<b>Village Jam Session</b> in Village Club. All welcome. Contact George: <a href="mailto:Gethom@Tiscali.com">Gethom@Tiscali.com</a>
MON 23rd	7.30pm	<b>The Guild</b> — Rev Richard Begg in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 24th	7.30pm	<b>Book Group</b> in Strathblane Library (Please note - different week in month from normal)
WED 25th	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. All welcome
SAT 28th	7.30pm	<b>Blane Field Thistle FC &amp; SOSC Race Night</b> in the Edmonstone Hall Tickets £10 (BYOB) from BTFC committee & SOSC

## APRIL

THUR 2nd		9.30am <b>End of Term School Service</b> in Strathblane Church 2pm <b>Maundy Thursday Cuppa Time with Communion</b> in the Kirk Rooms 7.30pm <b>Joint Service with Killearn Kirk</b> in Killearn Church
FRI 3rd		12 - 2pm <b>Messy Easter</b> in the Kirk Rooms 7.30pm <b>Joint Service with Killearn Kirk</b> in Strathblane Church
SUN 5th		8am <b>Loch Ardingning</b> , meet at Church Car Park at 7.30 9.30am <b>Breakfast in the Kirk Rooms</b> 11am <b>Morning Worship</b> followed by informal Communion for Easter Sunday 7pm <b>Easter Songs of Praise</b> in the Kirk Rooms
MON 13th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council</b> in the Kirk Rooms. All welcome.
WED 22nd	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. All welcome
FRI 24th	7.30pm	<b>Scottish Fiddle Journey: Concert - Alastair Savage &amp; Friends</b> at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle. Tickets £10 from Mark Seymour 01786 870710 / <a href="mailto:concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk">concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk</a>
SAT 25th	2pm —	<b>Strathblane Tennis Club Open Day</b> New members welcome. For further details contact Graeme 771571, Sally 771031
WED 29th	7.45pm	<b>Campsie Crooners</b> in the Village Club. All welcome

### Burns Club Gives Strathblane Library the Complete Works

On March 10th George Eastcroft, President of the Blane Valley Burns Club, presented Strathblane Library with bound editions of the complete poems and letters of Robert Burns to Community Library Officer, Lynne James. These limited edition volumes were originally printed by subscription only, so they are a very unusual and valuable resource for Burns scholars. Lynne thanked the Club for these significant additions to the library's Local History and Reference collections.

The club also donated a collection of childrens' titles in Scots language to be used together with similar stock already held in Strathblane Libraries. George said that the gifts were part of the Club's mission to keep alive and pass on knowledge of the life and works of the Bard and reflected a long-standing focus on young people in the community, which has involved working with Strathblane Primary School in projects and educational visits.

Most of Burns best loved poems were in Scots, and the language is a living, vibrant, and dynamic element of Scotland's history and tradition. The safest place for that tradition is in the hands of our young people and the club feel that presenting popular children's books in Scots is a great way to kindle their interest in the rich word store of the language

The Blane Valley Burns Club has been active in the area for 35 years. As well as holding a popular Burns Supper each January it has long supported local activities and charities. A close link is maintained with the Local Strathblane Primary School, helping to fund poetry and art competitions, theatre company visits and educational visits to the Burns Cottage and Museum in Alloway. More information from George Eastcroft [geolyn2000@hotmail.com](mailto:geolyn2000@hotmail.com)

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)