

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet November 2012 No. 7

## Real Moves towards more Community Empowerment?

We are moving into a period when – for both principled and pragmatic reasons – community empowerment is rising up the political agenda. In October we responded to the Scottish Government consultation on the proposed Renewal and Empowerment Bill; and this month we have a working group report on the future of Community Councils. Both move us along a path that Stirling Council (SC) is already further along than most and we see real potential benefits from these developments. As a result of views which we have expressed at SW Rural Forums and other community consultation sessions run by SC in October we were offered the chance to meet Stirling Chief Executive Bob Jack and Assistant CE Linda Kinney so that there could hear our view on the way we would wish our role to develop.

It was agreed that for CCs to be able to raise outside funding, employ staff and take direct responsibility for public budgets new legislation would be required. That may come, but there is still much scope for communities through their CCs to have a more significant say in prioritizing the allocation of 'residual' local authority budgets to be spent in their areas. SC are in the process of getting their own departments to work together in a more integrated way and raising service managers' awareness of local community concerns by giving each senior service manager a responsibility to oversee the whole of SC's service provision in a particular CC area.

We hope that Strathblane Community Council will be included in the trialling of this new approach by Stirling Council.

## The End of the Hot Prepared Meals Service

The group who have been meeting regularly over the last year or so have now come to the end of the road. Given the small numbers taking meals in the village it is not economic to provide a hot meal service through a community business. The hot meal provision has now been withdrawn and is replaced by a fortnightly frozen meals service, provided by Wiltshire foods. The lunch club, which is open to anyone, will continue to meet weekly in the Edmonstone Hall.

It is important to us that our senior citizens and other vulnerable people have a choice in how services are provided to them and that everyone claims their full entitlement. After all this is not charity! It is only a return for your contribution in tax and in other ways over the years! Those of you who already buy Wiltshire foods can ask to be assessed to see if you qualify for a subsidy for the same service. For those who are struggling on—have you applied for attendance allowance? Couples who care for each other can apply, as can people who are on their own. This is not charity and it can make a huge difference in helping to pay for a taxi, home help or anything else that can help to improve your quality of life.

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by  
ARDUNAN FARM, Strathblane  
See enclosed flyer for information on their produce

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## MAKING CONTACT

Email the SCC at

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

## Get in touch with your Community Councillors

Margaret Vass	770131
Richard Arnold	770006
Philip Graves	0141 9561954
John Gray	771031
Julie Hutchison	770791
Alan Hutton	770537
Marian Lever	770536
Mike McNulty	770076
Susan Morgan	771747
Willie Oswald	770497
Elsbeth Posnett	770113
Sue Rand	770630

## 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

Current & past issues of the Bulletin can be downloaded from the village website

## 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

[www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk) for updates

# November Community Council

*In this brief report we highlight major items dealt with at the November Community Council meeting. Some of these are followed up elsewhere in the Bulletin. Full minutes are available on the village website and noticeboards.*

The first half of our meeting, devoted to an open session on the Draft **Local Development Plan**, was introduced by our Planning Correspondent John Gray. Discussion focussed on concerns over the proposal for housing in the 'Singh Field' (now 30 not 50), the related relaxation of the Green Belt boundary, and the siting of the cemetery extension.

Points were raised on possible implications - positive & negative - of these developments for traffic management; on the need for proper footways on both sides of Campsie Road; and on the pros and cons of reversing the proposed siting of the new housing and the cemetery extension. The discussion exposed the difficult balance between community benefits (especially particular needs and affordable housing) and costs (including loss of Green Belt and attendant amenity) and reaffirmed the need for the community council to main-

tain a tight watching brief on the details of any future proposed developments to ensure that the safeguards which we and Stirling Council are concerned to impose are implemented as closely as possible.

Individuals were encouraged to make their representations to Stirling Council, and the Community Council will agree its response at the December meeting.

A **Petition** on the desperate need for footpath maintenance on the three approach roads to the villages was put into circulation and received immediate strong support.

The Chair reported on an important discussion between community council members and the CE of Stirling Council (see Page 1 report).

The **village tubs** are now all planted and we must thank the Oakwood Garden Centre for their support.

We end on a very positive note. At the November meeting we agreed to co-opt **Julie Hutchison** onto the Council, thus filling our remaining vacancy and - for the first time in over a decade - giving us a full complement of 12 community councillors.

## Sponsor an issue of the Blane Valley Bulletin?

We are very grateful to those local individuals and businesses who have already offered to sponsor an issue of the Bulletin. We need a few more to see us through 2013.

**Business sponsors would get a banner acknowledgement across the bottom of the front page — of a news sheet which goes to every household in the community.**

To find out more email [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)

## December Community Council Meeting

Our next meeting is on Monday 3rd December at 7.30pm in the school.

Scottish Water will be there to discuss their planning application. Site access issues are especially important for residents in Dumbrock Road, Dumbrock Crescent and Park Place. In addition we will agree our comments on the Local Development Plan and the issue of Community Meals will be on the agenda.

**Please come along and give us your views.**

## LOCAL CHRISTMAS POST

The 36th Forth Valley Scout Group are running Christmas Post for all your Christmas Card deliveries in the Strathblane, Blane-field, Carbeth and Mugdock areas.

**Stamps at 20p** (limited number of 1st Day covers available - £2.50) from the Library, Pestle & Mortar, Beavers or Cubs (Monday) or Scouts (Friday). **Post Boxes** in the library, Pestle & Mortar, (and St Kessogs & the Parish Church on Sundays). The Scouts will deliver all the cards between 10-15 December and **all income will go to Scout funds**. Please use Royal Mail for all deliveries outside the area.

## FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED IN OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY — ITS CHRISTMAS!

After a wonderful community launch event **Strathblane & Blane-field - Now and Then** by **Anne Johnstone and Martin Shields**, has been disappearing from the shelves at great speed. In December it will be followed by **'Strathblane 1870-1970: A Century of Change'** by **Alison Dryden** (edited by Mary Brailley & Murray O'Donnell) — to be launched on Dec 7th in the Village Club - see Page 3 below) and on sale in the Library, Pestle & Mortar, the Karra Store and other local outlets.

Anyone wishing to follow-up any of the stimulating leads these books provide should visit our local **Strathblane Library**. The resources room holds an fascinating collection of local history materials. Librarian Lynne James will be pleased to help.

**The Village Club** available for club activities and private parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett (Tel: 700113) or Keith Vass (Tel: 770131) for availability.

**CHURCH NOTES:** In addition to items in the Calendar the Parish Church has: Advent Afternoon in the Kirkrooms on December 15th; Sunday Club Nativity Service at 11am on the 16th; a Christmas morning service and on December 30th 'Reflections on the Year' with a meal and ceilidh in the Kirkrooms at 4pm. Apart from December 11th the church will be open 5-7pm each Tuesday for quiet time, prayer or conversation.

Strathblane 1870 - 1970:  
A Century of Change

Alison Dryden



ANOTHER NEW BOOK ABOUT OUR LOCAL HISTORY!

**'Strathblane 1870-1970: A Century of Change'**

The Heritage Society's new book documenting a hundred years of village life is hot off the press and will be going on sale by the end of this month, price £8.50.

There will be a **launch event in the Village Club at 7pm on Friday 7 December**, where you'll be able to buy copies of the book, hear its editors Mary Brailey and myself talk about it, enjoy drinks and nibbles, and maybe share a few 'auld tales' together. The book will also be on sale at various places in the village and via the village website.

'A Century of Change' follows hard on the heels of the brilliant 'Now and Then' photograph book from Anne Johnstone and Martin Shields. We hope that 'Now and Then' will have whetted your appetite to find out even more about past times in our community!

'A Century of Change' was originally researched and written by Alison Dryden, who was a keen local historian and one of the Heritage Society's founder members. Sadly Alison died before she could get the book published. But the Society decided to pursue the project, with the blessing of her brother Michael. We are delighted to be able to publish the book at last, edited and complete with illustrations and index.

Reading through these chapters – whether they're about the printworks, the railway, our churches, the village doctors, the school, housing, social life, or village life in wartime – I start to appreciate all over again how much our living conditions have improved within the space of a generation, but also how well our community continually adapted during the economic and social ups and downs of those years.

**Contact me on 01360 770748 to reserve copies - Murray O'Donnell, Strathblane Heritage Society**

**SEE YOU AT THE LAUNCH on DECEMBER 7th 7pm in the VILLAGE CLUB!**

**STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**NEW APPOINTMENTS:** Directors and long-standing residents Robert Davy and Dai Hutchinson have been appointed Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively as from 24 October. Gordon Ash remains a Director of the Trust.

**NOW AND THEN BOOK:** At a very successful launch of the Strathblane and Blanefield publication produced by Anne Johnstone and Martin Shields on 26 October 280 copies were sold and total sales may already be approaching 700 from a print run of 1000. Buy it (£10 per copy until December) at the library, Pestle & Mortar or Milngavie Bookshop or on-line at [www.strathblanefield.org.uk](http://www.strathblanefield.org.uk)

**MUSIC FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:** Attendances at the sessions on Thursday evenings have averaged 8 to 10 participants (See box on right for details).

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL BILL:** SCDT response for this important issue can be viewed on the website.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Some 156 households are on board and we are keen to raise the numbers and get more people involved in discussions on local developments. If you are interested please complete and return the form application form enclosed with this Bulletin.

Send us all **late-January & February** events for the next **Bulletin** to [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)  
Copy date is **Monday 14 January**.

**Music for Young People**

Weekly Thursday evening sessions **7-9pm** in **Strathblane Primary School**. Ideal for 11-13 and 14-18 age groups interested in tuition, playing/jams, singing or just listening. **All welcome** at sessions on:

Thursday November 22nd

Thursday November 29th

Thursday December 6th

Contact Gordon Ash 01360 771044 for more details

**"A Folky Little Christmas Night"**

**Friday December 14 at 8pm** in the Village Club. Songs & tunes from 3 top traditional musicians - Lauren MacColl (fiddle), Siobhan Miller (vocals) & Ewan MacPerson (multi-instrumentalist). Tea, coffee & mince pies, BYOB. Tickets £15 (OAPs £12) from Fiona 771497 or Sheila 771266. [music@sheilahall.co.uk](mailto:music@sheilahall.co.uk).

**EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS**

Surgery will be closed on Thursday November 29 from 1pm and on December 25 & 26 and January 1 & 2

For help contact NHS24 at 0845 4242424

Please check your prescriptions before the Christmas & New Year holidays.

Flu Clinics are still available - contact the surgery at 01360 770340 for details or online at

[www.edenkilnsurgery.com](http://www.edenkilnsurgery.com)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

MON 19th		<b>Guild Week</b> - Afternoon Outing to Mugdock Country Park Theatre
TUES 20th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Book Group</b> in the Library
TUES 20th	7pm	<b>Mens Steak Night</b> in the Blane Valley Inn. All welcome
TUES 20th	7.30pm	<b>Senior Citizens Club</b> - St David's Music Group in Edmonstone Hall
THUR 22nd	7.30pm	<b>Music for Young People</b> in the Primary School (see page 3 for more details & other dates)
FRI 23rd	1.15pm	<b>Storytime and Craft Session</b> for 3 - 5 years, in library. Please book in advance.
FRI 23rd	6.30 - 9pm	<b>Christmas Fair - Strathblane Primary School</b> - Crafts, gifts, food & fun
SAT 24th	7.30pm	<b>Tennis Club Quiz Night</b> in Village Club. Tickets £30 per table (max.6) at Library BYOB
MON 26th	7.30pm	<b>Guild - Crossreach Heart for Art</b> in the Kirk Rooms
FRI 30th	8pm	<b>Blane Valley Players St Andrew's Night Concert</b> in the Village Club. Tickets at Library.

## DECEMBER

SUN 2nd	1 - 5pm	<b>Jam Session</b> in the Village Club. All welcome
MON 3rd	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council</b> - Monthly Meeting in the School. All welcome
TUES 4th	7.30pm	<b>Senior Citizens Club</b> - Talk by PC McNally & Annual Prize Draw in Edmonstone Hall
FRI 7th	1.15pm	<b>Storytime and Craft Session</b> for 3 - 5 years, in library. Please book in advance.
FRI 7th	7pm	<b>'Strathblane 1870-1970' Book Launch</b> in the Village Club - drinks & nibbles
SAT 8th	10am -12	<b>Fun Hut Christmas Fair</b> Village Club. Craft activities, games, coffee, mulled wine & mince pies
MON 10th	7pm	<b>Guild - Christmas Meal</b> in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 11th	7pm	<b>Christmas Tree Lights Switch On</b> in the Village Club. Music by Dumbarton Wind Ensemble & the Church Choir conducted by Robert Baxter. Mulled wine & mince pies served.
WED 12th	2.30pm	<b>Bookbug - Special Christmas Event</b> in the library.
FRI 14th	8pm	<b>"A Folkly Little Christmas Night"</b> in the Village Club. <b>Details on Page 3 above</b>
SUN 16th	6pm	<b>Service of Lessons &amp; Carols with Strathendrick Singers</b> in the Church
TUES 18th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Book Group</b> in Library
MON 24th	11.30pm	<b>Watch Night Service</b> in Strathblane Kirk. Community Carol Singing at 11.15pm

## JANUARY

THURS 3rd		<b>Cinderella at Kings Theatre</b> with High Tea before. Tickets Lorna 771705 or Emma 440029
MON 7th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council</b> - Monthly Meeting in the School. All welcome
MON 7th	7.30pm	<b>Guild - Dr Bob Sharp on Mountain Rescue</b> - in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 15th	7.30pm	<b>Senior Citizens Club</b> - Hearing Dogs for the Deaf - Stewart McDonald in Edmonstone Hall
WED 16th	7.30pm	<b>Heritage Society</b> David Shenton 'A Reserve for Wildlife' in the Village Club. All welcome
FRI 25th	7pm	<b>Burns Club - Burns Supper</b> in the Edmonstone Hall. Tickets: George Eastcroft 770390

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)