

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

*The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet* September 2014 No.25

## Working in Partnership A Great Opportunity

**SCC Chair Margaret Vass** makes a call for both the creation of new links between village groups themselves and for new volunteers to come forward.

Along with others I have been posting on Facebook about the opportunity to tap into the increased public engagement of the last few weeks to continue to build and strengthen our community. As Stirling Council have recognised, activity in our villages has been impressive. We have always had a solid core of people actively running groups. But in a small community that core needs to be continuously refreshed. Recently new volunteers have been emerging but we can never have too many. So now, as much as ever, need more community members to consider making a voluntary contribution.

We would like the community to celebrate all the wonderful work that goes on in the village and for individuals and groups to be able to learn from each other's experiences. We therefore intend to produce a special colour BVB featuring all of the groups in our community. Most significantly, we plan to organise a community gathering of representatives from all groups in the village to stimulate discussion on what more might be achieved on key priorities that we identify if we can support and learn from each other. This is likely to take place at the end of October/beginning of November.

How can we discuss our priorities, improve communications and mutual support and maximise funding opportunities for the community? Should groups in the villages have 'associate' status with SCC to help us help you where we can? Should we have a bank of volunteers who we can call on for help on an occasional basis?

To start the process I am asking all groups to write a short piece on what they have achieved in the last 10 years (it may only be survival!) and provide a photo or two. How many volunteers do you have, how large is your committee and what are your challenges.

So we want to hear from— the Parent Council, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides Brownies, Rainbows, Strathblane Parish Church, St Kessog's, Senior Citizens, the Lunch Club, the Guild, the Fun Hut, SOSC, the Bowling Club, the Tennis Club, Blane Field FC, the Allotments Society, the Heritage Society, the Burns Club, the Netherblane Proprietors Association, the Blane Residents' the Village Club, the Edmonstone Hall, the Scout Hall, the Bridge Club, SCDT and all its groups—and anyone we have inadvertently missed!

Please send your group piece to me at [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk) or if you need help or wish to talk to me please phone 770131.

Anyone who is busy but would like to offer occasional help or skills please send us your contact details — [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)

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**HELP WANTED!** The call for skills and equipment useful in an emergency in the village produced a good response. Our thanks to those who have offered help. SCC and the SCDT also urgently need help in two areas:

**Minutes** — Is there anyone who would be prepared to do the minutes for tSCC and SCDT? You would receive £30 from each organisation and basically fill in a minute template. This would be an ideal opportunity to enhance a CV.

**Web Page** — SCC are also looking for a volunteer to help set

### EDENKILN SURGERY

#### FLU CLINIC OPEN DAY Wednesday October 8th

730am – 12.30pm & 2pm – 5.30pm

Open to adults 65 and over, those with diabetes, chronic respiratory, heart, kidney, liver or neurological diseases incl. stroke. Also if you are pregnant or an unpaid carer. And to children aged 2 – 5 on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.

We can be contacted at 01360 770340 For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website [www.edenkilnsurgery.com](http://www.edenkilnsurgery.com)

### Kirkhouse Inn Refurbishment

Allan & Margaret Duncan tell us that the Inn is about to undergo a major refurbishment. There will be a new look bar, serving traditional pub food, along with a Steak & Seafood Grill Restaurant with a Whisky Bar. The Whisky Bar area will also have a dance floor which, when not in use, will form a lounge for dinner guests—pre-dinner drinks and post-dinner coffee & liqueur.

The ground floor area and the bedrooms will be restyled by *Signature Interiors (Kirkintilloch)* with a hand made carpet by *Stevenson & Graham*. The Inn will remain open during these changes with live sports in the bar, and it is hoped that everything will be fully functional by December.

Festive menus are now available. Bookings for Christmas Day and a Hogmanay Ceilidh Dinner Dance (with The Ceilidh Mafia) can be made at 01360 771771.

### KIRKHOUSE INN VOUCHER

Copies of this issue of the BVB act as a **Buy One Get One Free** voucher for a 2-course (Starter & Main) Festive Lunch or Dinner on December 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th 2014.

This Issue of the Blane Valley Bulletin is sponsored by **The Kirkhouse Inn**

Contact Details: Tel 01360 771771  
email: [info@kirkhouseinn.com](mailto:info@kirkhouseinn.com)

**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@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk) for more details.

## The Community Council September Update

We feel that we have been marking time a bit waiting for the Priority Based Budgeting to start. It is now confirmed that community meetings are at 7pm on :

7th October—Stirling High  
20th October—Balfour Campus  
27th October—Killin Primary  
30th October—McLaren High  
11th November—Wallace High

Remember many of you didn't believe us last year! So please go along to any one of these meetings if you value your bin collection service or music in schools. The purpose of the meetings is for you to find out what is being proposed, make comment and or suggest other ways of saving money.

**Community Policing:** Sgt Adrian Robertson attended to highlight what is going on in our area which thankfully is very little just now. He urged the community to report anything suspicious by phoning 101. We yet again raised our concerns about the loss of a "well kent face" around the village.

At our last meeting concern had been raised about the issue of the **lack of district nurses** with the GP practice. Our nurses are attached to the Killearn practice and attend Strathblane 2 days per week. This is based on the number of patients on the practice list. The practice was pleased that the matter had been raised at a public meeting. More patients = more district nurse cover. Palliative care cover is handled by team leader Helen Gray who can be contacted on 550554.

The **road closure** was discussed ranging from the lack of consultation about the 24 hour closure, the lack of information for those directly affected, the inconvenience for people going to and from work and the loss of takings from the businesses directly affected. It was quite pleasant walking around on the quiet road why didn't people use our local shops and pub? The closure was made worse by the other closures close by and no distinction made as to which diversion was being signposted. Some tourists must have been in quite a spin!!

Thank you to everyone who made suggestions for the name for the new road off Campsie Road. We have given the council 3 choices, Campsie Crescent, Dunglass Crescent or the "original name of the field" crescent if that can be established. It has now emerged that Stirling Council does not like a name name being used for more than one street—so Campsie and Dunglass are out and the search goes on.

Points raised under **community issues** included the tall hedge masking the lights at the puffin crossing, hedge cutting beside the A81 and the deterioration of the path at Danny's Brae.

We have also asked Cllr Lambie to request that the CC has representation on **Mugdock Country Park Management Committee**.

### October Community Council Meeting

The SCC meets on Monday October 6th at 7.30pm in the Primary School. Stewart Smolarek of Scottish Water will update us on the Turbine Project and PBB will be on the agenda.

## Smartwater Project

Strathblane and Killearn are among 6 areas chosen by Police Scotland to pilot the Smartwater product across Scotland. Killearn will host the official Scottish National Media launch on Monday 29 September.

Under the scheme Police will provide 'Smartwater' property marking kits free of charge to some householders in the Strathblane and Killearn communities in areas which analysis suggests are attractive to housebreakers.

Smartwater is a liquid used to mark items of property (mobile phones; computers; jewellery etc)—invisible once dry but visible under the correct Ultraviolet light. The chemical will contain a unique marker registered to the user and can help to reunite recovered property with its owner. The scheme also provides signs displayed on main road routes around the community to let potential criminals know that the product is in use. Other communities where the scheme is operated have experienced a dramatic reduction in crime.

Our local police officers will be out and about in the evenings for the week after the launch visiting identified households with the Smartwater product.

We are very hopeful that the Community Council will be able to negotiate a special offer for householders whose homes have not been included in the free trial. The current annual charge is around £60 per house. check out the website <http://www.smartwater.com> to find out more. We would also expect this product may reduce insurance premiums.

### ALLANDER JAZZ BAND - Saturday 15th November

2014 The Strathblane Bowling Club are presenting this well respected local Jazz Band, together with their resident singer, in concert in the Edmonstone Hall. This is a chance to move on from all the events of the summer and make the most of the shortening days. A fun evening with space for the energetic to dance to Dixieland style music. Light refreshments will be provided and there will be a cash bar. A mere £10 per person for an entertaining evening with friends and relatives. Tickets are limited and a high demand is expected so contact Robert Taylor ([rb.pataylor@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:rb.pataylor@mypostoffice.co.uk) / 01360 771079)

### Blane Valley Allotments Association

We have a few 50 and 100 square metre plots available. If you're interested in growing your own fruit, veg and flowers, please contact the Secretary, Val McNulty, at [val.mcnulty@waitrose.com](mailto:val.mcnulty@waitrose.com). And if you're intrigued but don't know what's involved, get in touch anyway and we'll be happy to show you round.

### 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  
**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



## STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST



### WWI BOOK LAUNCH

Contributors to the World War 1 project and relatives of the men that it commemorates and guest gathered in the Village Club in the Village Club on Saturday September 20th to launch 'A Village Remembers'.

Copies can be purchased locally at Strathblane Library and Pestle & Mortar Delicatessen at a concessionary price of £10 until Remembrance Day.

*Anne Balfour writes:* The Strathblane First World War Group would like to thank the many members of the community who attended the launch of A Village Remembers on September 20 at the Village Club. After extensive press coverage, including The Herald, the Daily Mail, the Bearsden & Milngavie Herald and the Stirling Observer, orders have been flooding in for the book, which tells the life stories of the 27 men from our community who were killed in the First World War and who feature on Strathblane War Memorial. Published under the auspices of SCDT all proceeds from the book will go to Erskine, which has been caring for Scotland's veterans since 1916.

**Author /editor Anne Johnstone** will be giving an **illustrated** talk about the book at **Milngavie Book Shop** on **Thursday October 23, 7pm — Tickets £7 (including refreshments and £5 towards book purchase)**

Anyone able to **help with sales and marketing** of the book is requested to contact Anne on 01360 770750 or [emailanne@annebalfour.com](mailto:emailanne@annebalfour.com)

### Wanted for exhibition!

There will be an exhibition of memorabilia from the First World War in the Kirk Rooms 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Do you have any family photos from this period of soldiers in uniform, women at work, letters from the front, postcards, artefacts egs. trench art, household items, medals, militaria etc.? The material does not need to relate to the village but just the First World War years in particular. If you have anything you'd like to see on display, Lynne James at the library (770737)

### Renovating the Scary Path

The Path Development Group will be doing preparatory work prior to the Action Day on Oct 25th on **Saturday 11th & Saturday 18th October from 10 to 3pm**. If you have the time why not join us for an hour or two. All welcome

Contact: Calum Craig Tel: 07974781281

## The Strathblanefield Bike Track

*Guy Keating writes—* The CDT is delighted to announce the village now has a fantastic new facility — a bespoke bike 'pump' track for all kids (big and small...) to use and enjoy.

Several months ago, SCDT applied for a UK Big Lottery Fund grant (via SportScotland), secured the funds to purchase the track and features such as ramps and tabletops, and commissioned an experienced contractor to start the build. Measuring approx. 16 x 10m the weatherproof wooden track is a fully modular loop, with rollers and berms designed to develop bike skills and fitness.

Stirling Council's open access policy to school grounds, means the track can reside in the primary school every summer break and other holiday periods. For the next month or so, it will be located between the zip wire & the football pitch - after which it will go into winter storage to ensure longevity.

Once riders become familiar with the loop, berms and rollers, the idea is to get around without peddling - by 'pumping' the bike down the rollers and using momentum / gravity to zip around. Some obvious pointers for parents;—

1. If 2 or more bikes are on the track at once, 1 direction only.
2. Helmets are essential for riders. No helmet = no ride.
3. The track has a grippy surface and can be ridden when it's damp - probably best not to ride if the track is soaked.
4. You (and your children) use the track at your own risk. Any bike-based activity is self evidentially hazardous and the CDT accepts no liability for any injury or damages occurring as a result of riding on the track.

If you have any questions, please get in touch [guykeating40@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:guykeating40@yahoo.co.uk)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

FRI 3rd	6pm	<b>Fish Supper Night / Film Night</b> - 'Warhorse' and (in Rm 3 TBC) in the Kirk Rooms
SAT 4th	11 - 1pm	<b>Guide/Brownie/Rainbow Autumn Sale:</b> in Strathblane Scout & Guide Hall Admission £1.50 (includes tea) —Jumble, Raffle, Jar Jamboree, Home baking, Snacks.
SUN 5th	1 - 5pm	<b>Village Jam Session</b> (Proposed date - contact: Gethom.tiscali.co.uk to confirm) All welcome
MON 6th	10.15am	<b>Strathblane Library's Bookbug</b> visits the Fun Hut with songs & stories for babies & toddlers
MON 6th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council</b> in the Primary School— All welcome
MON 6th	7.30pm	<b>Guild</b> - Douglas Academy Music School in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 7th	7.30pm	<b>Senior Citizens - Music Night with Felix Lennon</b> in the Edmonstone Hall
TUES 7th	6.30pm	<b>Knit and Natter</b> in the Manse
WED 8th	7.30am—	<b>Flu Clinic Open Day at Edenkiln Surgery</b> — see box on Page 1 for more details
SAT 11th	10am-3pm	<b>Scary Path' Preparatory Work Party</b> See box on Page 3
WED 15th	7.30pm	<b>Heritage Society</b> Valerie Reilly on Christmas Customs in the Kirk Rooms. All welcome.
SAT 18th	10am-3pm	<b>Scary Path' Preparatory Work Party</b> See box on Page 3
SUN 19th	Until Nov 18th	<b>Smithy Gallery Exhibition - Margaretann Bennet RSW - New Paintings-</b> Previews Sunday Oct 19th 2 - 5pm All welcome
MON 20th	7.30 - 9	<b>Men's Steak Night</b> in the Blane Valley Inn All welcome
MON 20th	7 - 9pm	<b>Stirling Council Priority Based Budgeting - Community Session</b> at Balfron Campus Open to everyone to go along and give their views
MON 20th	7.30pm	<b>Guild</b> — <b>Yvonne Mildred - Trade Right International</b> in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 21st	6.30pm	<b>Knit and Natter</b> in the Manse
THURS 23rd	7pm	<b>A Villages Remembers - Illustrated talk by Anne Johnstone</b> in Milngavie Bookshop Tickets £7 (including refreshments and £5 towards book purchase)
SAT 25th	9.30am	<b>Path Action Training Day</b> - registered participants meet behind the Village Club
FRI 31st	7pm	<b>Film Night</b> in the Kirk Rooms (Main Hall: The Memorial Men; Room 3 - TBC)

## NOVEMBER

SAT 15th	10am-12	<b>Why Listen?</b> An introduction to listening skills by Maureen Wilson, Listen Well Scotland. In the Kirk Rooms. For more information please contact Sylvia Armstrong - 770893.
SAT 15th		<b>Allander Jazz Band Concert</b> in Edmonstone Hall (light refreshments & cash bar) Tickets £10 from Rbt Taylor: 771079 <a href="mailto:rb.pataylor@mypostoffice.co.uk">rb.pataylor@mypostoffice.co.uk</a> (Organised by Strathblane Bowling Club)
SAT 22nd	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Tennis Club's Annual Quiz</b>

**Copy Date for the October BVB is Monday 20th.** Send Calendar items & other news to [cc@strathblanefield.or.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.or.uk)

### Thanks...

Bob and Anne Ryan would like to express their gratitude to all those whose generosity at Karen's funeral service meant that over £730 was raised for the work of Strathcarron Hospice. Thank you all.

**The Village Club** — available for public and private functions. To check availability make a booking or ask for further information please ask Keith Vass or Elspeth Neill.

Keith Vass – [keithvass13@gmail.com](mailto:keithvass13@gmail.com) 770131  
Elspeth Neill - [elspethneill@gmail.com](mailto:elspethneill@gmail.com) 771653

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