

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

April 2013 No.11

## MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THESE!

There's an old joke about waiting ages for a bus and two coming along at once. Although that doesn't happen often in Strathblane, when two books about the history of the community were published almost simultaneously late last year, it begged the question of whether the market was big enough for both of them. Now we have the answer because both *Strathblane 1870 to 1970: A Century of Change* (£8.50) by Alison Dryden and *Strathblane and Blanefield Now & Then* (£12.99) by Anne Johnstone and Martin Shields have proved to be best sellers locally, with copies going out across the world to nostalgic ex-patriates.

With more than 500 copies of *Century of Change* sold already, Strathblane Heritage Society is in the process of reprinting. "Demand for the book has greatly exceeded expectations and all concerned are delighted at the level of interest," said Mary Brailey, who finished and edited the book along with Murray O'Donnell of Strathblane Heritage Society, following Alison's death. Mary and Murray are holding an event at Mugdock Country Park visitor centre on Wednesday 22 May at 7.45pm, where they will talk about how the book came to fruition and present a selection of views of the community. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

The two books featured in a four-page article in April's edition of *Scottish Memories* magazine. Meanwhile, *Now & Then* is close to selling out its original print run of 1000 and Anne and Martin are planning to republish it online as an eBook. There is even a scheme afoot to reproduce some of the illustrations as cork-backed table mats and coasters.

Both books are still on sale at Strathblane Library, Pestle & Mortar Delicatessen, the Mirza Store and elsewhere. Hurry while stocks last!

## THE BIG COMMUNITY WEEKEND

May 31 - June 2

Following the success of last June's celebrations this year three events should guarantee wide participation again:

**Big Vern & the Shootahs** at the Kirkhouse Inn on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>; Strathblane Primary & Nursery **Summer Fair** at the school on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>; and **The Big Community Lunch** in the Kirk Rooms on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12.15

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

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

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## MAKING CONTACT

Email the SCC at

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

## Get in touch with your Community Councillors

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## INFORMATION SOURCES

Strathblane website at

[www.strathblane.org.uk](http://www.strathblane.org.uk)

Library; Noticeboards; Shops;

Local weekly press; and the

**Facebook** Strathblane 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

# The Community Council in April

This report only highlights the main topics discussed at another lively and well attended meeting on April 8th. The full minute can be found on the website and noticeboards.

**Murray McEwan from the Scottish Ambulance Service** assured us that having a **community defibrillator** will not affect ambulance attendance. There is a training session on May 21<sup>st</sup> but this is not essential as the defibrillator comes with full instructions. We agreed to take this forward slowly using the defibrillator availability as the first step to having community first responders in the future.

**Scottish Water** confirmed that they will start construction on site for their hydro scheme within the next couple of weeks. The turbines will not arrive until early 2014. There will be improvements to the badly potholed part of the railway track and parts of river bank. Some paths which access the Gowk Stane track will be temporarily closed. We are seeing if some improvements can be made to the alternative route. All affected residents will receive letters from Scottish Water. Their great animated diagram of the water flows through our villages and the working of the scheme will be on show at the SCC's Summer Fair stand on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

A number of **planning applications** were discussed including the rifle range at Muirhouse Quarry. We are satisfied that this is operated by a long-established and well-run group which contributes to Commonwealth Games and Olympic sports. We understand that spin offs

for local residents may include help with rabbit control. The eyesore of the tree felling and partial logging below the hairpin bend was raised again. The Forestry Commission is looking into this for us and will be visiting the site.

**A81 and speed reduction:** the roads maintenance programme includes work to the A81 at Duntreath (around 20<sup>th</sup> May) and an expansion of work on the A81 in the village to include the road from Ballean Crescent to Kirkhouse Road. (starting August 12th) Both will involve road closures. We continue to press for traffic calming to be incorporated at this stage.

The community council reluctantly accepted **Mike McNulty's resignation** due to work commitments. Thanks to Mike for all his hard work. **Anyone interested in filling his place for the short time before elections in October should contact Margaret Vass.**

Under **community comments** we heard about problems with the footpath next to the houses beside Old Mugdock Road, speeding in Kirkland Ave, council vehicles parking on pavements and damaging the kerbs and the Blanefield Care Home. The Care Home has been subject to a frequent number of unannounced inspections by the Care Inspectorate (reports on Care Inspectorate website) and was in danger of losing its registration if improvements were not made by mid December last year. This important local facility that needs considerable improvement if it is to survive.

## May Community Council

Our next meeting is on Monday 13th May at 7.30pm in the Primary School. Roads, and an update on path developments will be major agenda items. The following meeting on June 10th will include our AGM.

Please come along and give us your views views.

## No Cold Calling?

Further to concerns raised at the March CC meeting we have investigated whether we could distribute leaflets with the Blane Valley Bulletin to all local households. This has not proved possible, however Trading Standards at Stirling Council have offered to provide an instructive DVD produced by the Stirling Reducing Doorstep Crime partnership, and PC McNally has offered to run a session to support members of the community. More details in next month's Bulletin.

Look out for posters on **Litter Picks** in May.

**Parking Charges for Mugdock?** Mugdock Country Park continues to thrive but parking is a huge problem and will cost money to solve. Parking charges could fund the overflow parking that is so desperately needed? If charges are levied there would also be a clearway to prevent parking on the access roads, what do you think?

## The Village Club AGM

will be held on 15 May at 7.30 pm in the Village Club

It's your Club, come along and hear what has been done and what is in the pipeline. Maybe you would like to get involved!

**The Village Club** is available for club activities and private parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett (Tel: 770113) or Keith Vass (Tel: 770131)

**Ways to give us your views or alert us to issues:** email the Community Council at [cc@strathblane.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblane.org.uk) ; contact one of your Community Councillors directly (phone numbers on Page 1); come along to Community Council meetings (or to any of the periodic consultation events we organise); or stand for the Community Council yourself—the next round of elections is in October and it is important that we continue to fill all the places — it would be great to have a real election!

Please send us all late-May & June events for the **Calendar** and other items for the next Bulletin to [cc@strathblane.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblane.org.uk) **Copy date is Monday 20th May.**

## Activity Update for April

**THE BIG WEEKEND** As reported elsewhere in the Bulletin SCDT in association with the Community Council have arranged a gig headed by renowned group Big Vern and the Shootahs, plus support act, in the Kirkhouse Inn on Friday 31st May.

**GREENHEART** Work on the mini football/rugby posts has started and should be completed by the end of April.

**PATHS GROUP** A grant application has been made to the Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank's Spirit of the Community Awards seeking support for the upgrading of the final section of the Railway track path route. The Trust is grateful to Group member Calum Craig who put in a huge amount of work to get the application in by the closing date. Over the next month—at the Summer Fair, and with a special session in the Village Club—we will be presenting our current paths proposals to get feedback and suggestions from community members. See the May Bulletin for details.

**INTERPRETIVE WALKING MAP** Proofs have now been returned to the printer and the map should be available during May. Further support has now been obtained in the form of a grant from "Awards for All" which will go towards the printing costs and relevant directional signs for the routes.

**COMMUNICATIONS** Local Media and Communications Honours Graduate, Olivia Fleming, has offered her skills to the Trust to assist in promoting the many positive aspects of the villages to a wider audience as well as producing promotional material for CDT events. The Trust has accepted her kind offer. Olivia joins a growing number of younger members of the community who are assisting in projects. The groups are always looking to recruit new younger members and anyone interested in helping should contact the SCDT on [cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk)

### Police Surgery Hours

PC David McNally will be available (crime permitting) at the Police Office in the School at the following times:

<b>May 5th</b> 4—5 pm	<b>May 9th</b> 4—5 pm
<b>May 16th</b> 3—4 pm	<b>May 21st</b> 3—4 pm
<b>May 27th</b> 4—5pm	

### COMMUNITY-BASED DEFIBRILLATOR

The Scottish Ambulance Service will be providing a 2 hour **training session** on defibrillation, heart massage, the prone position etc in the School on **Tuesday 21 May 7.30pm to 9.30pm**. This is open to anyone with no requirement to become a first responder, however... as the defibrillator battery and pads must be checked monthly **Volunteer Defibrillator Champions are needed** Find out more at the training day.

### New 'Taste IT' Beginners Computer Class Thursdays Library 1-3 p.m. May 16th/23/30/6th June

If you are a real beginner with computers and want to know more about emailing, surfing the web. etc, then the four week beginners course held in Strathblane Library might be just what you are looking for. Classes are two hours long with a cup of tea to help calm the nerves. A maximum of four people are in a class and there are two tutors who will take you along at a pace that suits you. Contact the library for further details.

### DOG FOULING AGAIN !

This heartfelt plea appeared on the Strathblanefield Facebook page last week:

'We are having big problems in the playground and at the back gate of the school with dog fouling. Our wonderful janitor picks it up as much as he can every morning before the children arrive and throughout the day but still regularly children are stepping in it and it really is unfair around the school and the play park. The children have had the support of the community council after they wrote to them but I am just once again appealing for your help if you see people around the school. Thank you!! '

**What can we do to get all dog owners to pick up after their dogs?**

**YOU MUST PICK UP EVERYWHERE. YOU ARE CAUSING A HEALTH RISK TO OTHER ANIMALS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO OUR CHILDREN**

The Community Council is still pressing Stirling Council for another bin at the railway track end of the football pitch. A member of the allotment group has been cleaning up twice a week and removing a significant number of poos, but on the 8<sup>th</sup> April there were over 50 poos within 50 meters of the start of the railway track.

**THIS HAS GOT TO STOP !**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## APRIL

SAT 27th	8pm	<b>Fashion and Fizz Night</b> in the Village Club. Free glass of fizz Bar opens 8pm. Tickets still available £5 Ladies only from the Library & the Pharmacy. Proceeds to Strathblane Primary School
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## MAY

THURS 2nd	2 -4 pm	<b>Cuppa time</b> in Kirk Rooms , just drop in. Dominos, jigsaws, painting, conversation and a cuppa <b>(And every Thursday afternoon throughout May)</b>
FRI 10th	8 - 9pm	<b>Fun Hut AGM</b> in the Village Club
SAT 11th	4 - 7pm	<b>Fun Hut Family Fundraiser</b> - In the Village Club. Storytelling, puppet show & mini-disco. Tickets from Fun Hut or at the door.
SAT 11th	10am-12 noon	<b>Guild Spring Fayre</b> (in aid of Dementia Care Charities) at the Kirk Rooms. Plant Stall, Home Baking, Hidden Treasures and much else. Entry: Adults £3 Children free - includes Tea/coffee.
MON 13th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council</b> in the Primary School. All welcome
WED 15th	7.30pm	<b>Village Club AGM</b> in the Village Club All welcome
TUES 21st	7.30-9.30	<b>Defibrillator (&amp; related first aid) Training Session</b> in the Primary School. Open to anyone — no requirement to become a first responder.
WED 22nd	2.30pm	<b>Bookbug:</b> Rhymes and stories for babies and toddlers in Strathblane Library
WED 22nd	7.45pm	<b>Heritage Society</b> talk on <b>Century of Change Book</b> by Mary Brailey & Murray O'Donnell in the Mugdock Country Park Visitor Centre. Admission Free All welcome
WED 29th	2pm —	<b>Afternoon Tea with Flower Arranging</b> at Strathblane Country House Hotel. (770491) Demonstration by florist Enid Reid. Arrangements raffled 4.30 - 5pm. Tickets £12.50 from Hotel
FRI 31st	7.30pm	<b>Big Vern &amp; the Shootahs</b> at Kirkhouse Inn. sponsored by SCDT. Tickets £12 from The Kirkhouse, the Deli, the Library or email to <a href="mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk">cc@strathblanefield.org.uk</a> with numbers required & a phone number. <b>Tickets on first come first served basis, buy early!</b>

## JUNE

SAT 1st	12 - 6pm	<b>Stathblane Primary &amp; Nursery SUMMER FAIR</b> at the Primary School - BBQ, Cafe, Bar, Bouncy Castle, Pony Rides, Ice Creams, Dog Show, Sporting Events etc.
SUN 2nd	12.15pm	<b>The Big Community Lunch</b> in the Kirk Rooms All welcome
SAT 8th	10.30am	<b>Senior Citizens' Outing to Arbroath</b> Leaving 10.30 back about 8pm Cost £20 includes High Tea. Contact Lorna Young (771705)

### EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

The surgery will be closed on May 6th and after 12.30 on May 22nd for help contact NHS24 at 0845 4242424  
The surgery can be contacted at 01360 770340 For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website at [www.edenkilnsurgery.com](http://www.edenkilnsurgery.com)

### 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 get a front page acknowledgement in 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)

STRATHBLANE PRIMARY & NURSERY  
**SUMMER FAIR**  
Saturday 1 June 2013  
BBQ Cafe Tea Sporting Events Hot Dogs  
Dog Show Bar Bouncy Castles  
Pony Rides Ice Creams Tractor Home Baking  
12 - 6 pm at the Primary School

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)