

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet February 2015 No 29

Strathblanefield Community Development Trust take over Bothy as a community asset

From a Stirling Council Press Release

Stirling Council has agreed to transfer ownership of a former gravedigger's bothy to the Strathblane community.

The Finance and Economy Committee agreed today (Thursday 29th January) to transfer the building to Strathblanefield Community Development Trust, who have plans to turn it into an interpretive centre.

The bothy is on the route of the popular John Muir Way, which expects around 60,000 walkers each year and it is hoped the new centre will enhance their experience.

The Strathblane bothy is no longer used by the Council and the Finance and Economy Committee have now agreed to transfer it to the Community Development Trust, to ensure it can be sustainably managed.

The Trust are currently awaiting confirmation of a funding application and estimate the overall cost of the project as £5000 plus annual running costs of £400.

Convenor of the Finance and Economy Committee, Councillor Neil Benny, said: "The Council is always keen to work with communities, and the Trust have come forward with an excellent proposal for saving an interesting building in their village.

"We are always open to considering proposals of this nature subject to a thorough application process to ensure that facilities can be properly maintained in the long term after they are transferred."

The Trust plans to use volunteers to carry out initial repairs and maintenance. (More on Page 3)

This Month's Main Items

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Thank You from Bob & Anne Ryan

May we take this opportunity through the Blane Valley Bulletin to reiterate our thank you to the community for their support and generosity since we were affected by the fire that destroyed our memories and a home that we have enjoyed for almost 20 years.

Roads and Parking....

will be on the Agenda for our **March Community Council Meeting**. Julie Hutchison and Margaret Vass have done a 'walk/drive around' with Jim McGregor (network management Team Leader from the SC Roads Department) to look at some priorities in the villages. We are hopeful that the missing link on the main road will be resurfaced this year. If you have a view on priorities please come along and have your say.

The SCC meets on Monday March 2nd at 7.30pm in the Primary School.

This issue is sponsored by the Strathblane Community Council in association with Stirling Council

Are You on the Electoral Register — Make Sure You Have a Vote on May 7th

The system has changed; registering to vote is now a matter for individuals rather than the household.

Peter Wildman, the Electoral Registration Officer reminds new electors and anyone who has moved address recently and who hasn't yet applied to register that they should do so now. You will need to supply your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance Number when registering. It can now be done more quickly and easily online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. More information on the changes is available at www.gov.uk/yourvotematters

If you wish to vote by post in May you can apply now. Application forms can be downloaded from www.gov.uk/central or can be collected from the local library.

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 for more details.

Community Council February Update

Chair Margaret Vass reports on the main discussion topics at this month's meeting:

Fire Prevention: Given the speed and severity of the fire in the village we arranged to hear from the fire service. Gordon Pryde gave an overview of the event and pointed out that the call had been received at 15.58 hrs with the first appliance attending from Milngavie at 15.11, followed by a second from Milngavie and a third from Clydebank. He warned that fire in a modern house takes hold very quickly helped by modern construction methods and materials the most important consideration when a fire breaks out is to leave the building. Fire prevention is critical; having suitable smoke and heat alarms (more suitable for kitchens) in the property which should be regularly tested is essential. He stressed the importance of having an escape plan known to all within the household with a muster point. The plan should be practiced. He also stressed the advisability of a night time safety routine, closing all doors to delay the spread of fire and to have keys to locked doors readily to hand. If trapped by flames gather in one room and open the window. Block smoke access if possible with blankets. Keep low down in the cool zone near the floor.

Scottish Water also updated us on progress. Cable duct installation is under way, with 10 days lost due to poor weather. Hand digging is being employed above the main water pipe track while the main road is being machine excavated for ducts from new switchgear housing in the Edmonstone Hall car park. The CC was disappointed that residents living adjacent to the hall had not been consulted or notified about the work. Heavy traffic movements should end soon and it was hoped for a plant commissioning in March and the plant operational from April. Thereafter the road and access bridge repairs would be done.

Marian Lever reported that she had responded to the **consultation on the integration of health and social care** which is the Scottish Government's programme of reform to improve services for people who use adult health and social care services. Local Health Boards and Local Authorities are currently developing integration schemes to submit for government approval. In Forth Valley there will be two schemes, covering Falkirk and Clackmannanshire/Stirling. The aim is to put people first and to ensure care is as easy to access as possible, that people are cared for within the community and that hospital admissions and discharges are planned. Currently 87% of all bed days for people aged 75+ were for unplanned admissions; we have again made the point that in this area we need integration with both Forth Valley and Greater Glasgow Health Boards.

We supported a **planning application from Edenmill Farm** for a cafe to help support the business and create local employment. This was subject to agreement with roads for satisfactory arrangements to slow the traffic on the A809 at the entrance to the farm and other buildings.

As usual **full minutes** are available on the noticeboards and on the village website: strathblanefield.org.uk

Copy Date for the March BVB is Monday 16th. Send Calendar items & other news to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

EDENKILN SURGERY

The surgery will be closed on Feb 19th and March 17th from 12.30 for staff training We can be contacted at 01360 770340

For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website 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 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

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

STIRLING COUNCIL

Councillors'

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

Report faults at info@stirling.gov.uk or ring 0845 2777000

Join My Stirling at

INFORMATION SOURCES: Strathblanefield website at www.strathblanefield.org.uk

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

Strathblanefield Community Development Trust

Chair Robert Davy Reports

Bothy — Following the successful application to Stirling Council for the transfer of the defunct Gavedigger's Bothy to the community the next step will be to complete our proposals both for the refurbishment of the building in the corner Strathblane churchyard and for its integration into the surrounding environment. A grant application will follow and the community will be kept informed of progress.

The members of the Property Group in the SCDT are to be congratulated on their perseverance in taking the project to this stage and we look forward to seeing the building in use as a significant asset for the villages.

First World War Project CD — Photographs of the items in the FWW Exhibition in the Kirk Rooms have been transferred to a CD. Copies are available in the Library (we would ask for a small donation to help offset the cost, of staging the exhibition).

The CD allows you to read the fascinating and moving contents of diaries written at the front line and, by using the magnifying tool on your computer, to inspect the various mementoes, books and photographs.

And, as Anne Balfour explains below, the project is not over yet!

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN STRATHBLANE'S FIRST WORLD WAR *from Anne Balfour*

World War One lasted more than four years and the Strathblane First World War Project could end up lasting just as long! Since the launch of the book *A Village Remembers* last month, it has not only covered all of its costs but also generated a profit of nearly £5000 for the war veterans charity Erskine. The first instalment, in the shape of a giant cheque, will be presented to the charity by P7 pupils at Strathblane Primary School on February 26.

Meanwhile, during the course of the project it became clear that there were a number of men with local connections whose names do not feature on Strathblane War Memorial, even though they were killed during the 1914 – 1918 War or died of their wounds afterwards. The constraints of time and budgets meant that we were not able to tell their full stories in the book. Instead, a chapter entitled *Missing Men?* was added to the book. It contained brief biographical details of 14 local men not on the memorial. They include the brothers Edward and Harry Miller Stirling, who share a large headstone in Strathblane Churchyard and whose family estate lay between Strathblane and Haughhead. Edward was killed while fighting with the Black Watch at Mashaidieh (in modern day Iraq), while his older brother, an officer in the Nigeria Regiment, died

in a German ambush near Mahiwa (in what is now Tanzania). One man, Quartermaster Sergeant Andrew Fitzpatrick of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), even has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission tombstone in Strathblane but does not feature on either of the two local Rolls of Honour or the war memorial.

Now the team behind *A Village Remembers* has undertaken to write up the stories of all 14 of the men missing from the memorial (plus any others who come to light) and post them on the Strathblanefield website. That process is well under way and these stories will be posted shortly. If you know of any locals who gave their lives in the First World War but for some reason are not on the memorial please contact Anne Balfour (anne@annebalfour.com / Kessogbank, 60 Glasgow Road, Blanefield).

Meanwhile, there are still plenty of copies of *A Village Remembers* and to encourage more sales the price has been held at £10. It is for sale at Pestle & Mortar Delicatessen, the Smithy Art Gallery, Balmore Coach House and Strathblane Library, as well as via the Strathblanefield website. The project is an initiative of Strathblanefield Community Development Trust, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Stirling Council Community Pride Fund.

Scout Spring Sale

Sat March 14 12-2pm in the Scout Hall

Jumble Sale, Tea, Coffee, Burgers and Hot Dogs.

Donations of 'surplus stuff' and home baking gratefully received 7 - 8pm on Thursday and Friday 12th & 13th and on the morning of the sale.

Grow Your Own This Year? After the annual reshuffle, we currently have two or three plots at the allotments for anyone wishing to grow their own vegetables fruit or flowers. To find out more email iopatrck@waitrose.com or phone Jo on 770556.

Blurred Lines - Karaoke & Disco Friday March 20th at 7.30pm in the Village Club. To raise funds raise funds to get permanent lacrosse and netball pitch lines on the playground to enable the kids to practice outside. Tickets info : nicki.corrigan@talktalk.net

Strictly Seniors 60+ Dance Fitness Class Come along and salsa, shimmy, mambo and jive your way to a healthier happier you! Thursdays 12.15pm the Village club, starting 19th February. Movements are adapted to suit all abilities. £5 drop in. Please call Kellie on 07859226761 for more information.

Barbara Fleming is delighted to inform you that the next meeting of the **CAMPSIE CROONERS** will be on Wed Feb. 18th at 7.45pm in the Village Club. And thereafter weekly — and because response has been so good it costs at only £2 per session.

Its not too late to join!

Contact us at crooners@strathblanefield.org.uk or just come along on the night.

Remember there are NO AUDITIONS, just an evening of relaxed and fun singing.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

TUES 17th	7.30pm	Book Group meet at Strathblane Library
TUES 17th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens - AGM and Talk by Carol Craig in the Edmonstone Hall
WED 18th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club (See P3 for details)
FRI 20th	1.30pm	Storytime for 3-5year olds in Strathblane Library
FRI 20th	7 pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms. All welcome
SAT 21st	11.30 - 3	Community Summit - with representatives from all village groups in the Village Club
SAT 21st	7.30pm	Fun Hut Ceilidh Fundraiser in the Edmonstone Hall. Featuring Caledonia Sound Ceilidh Band, Raffle & Mini Auction, Licensed Bar. Tickets £10 available from Strathblane Library or contact Emma: funhutstrathblane@gmail.com .
SUN 22nd	3.30pm	Messy Church in the Kirk Rooms & Fair Trade Sunday followed by lunch in Kirk Rooms
MON 23rd	7.30pm	Guild - National Guild Convenor in the Kirk Rooms
WED 25th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club (See P3 for details)

MARCH

SUN 1st	1 - 4pm	Killlearn Country Market - Local produce & Crafts in Killlearn Village Hall
SUN 1st	2 - 5pm	Exhibition Opening - 'Carol Deart - New' at the Smithy Gallery. All welcome.
MON 2nd	10.30am	Bookbug at the Fun Hut
TUES 3rd	7.30pm	Senior Citizens - Margaret Meager / Sheena - Dog Whisperer & Gardening Talk in the Edmonstone Hall
WED 4th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club (See P3 for details)
TUES 10th	7.30pm	Strathblane Church Stated Annual Meeting in the Kirk Rooms
WED 11th	2.30pm	Spring into the Library for Bookbug time - in Strathblane Library
WED 11th	7.30pm	Heritage Society - Robert Davy 'RMS Queen Mary - Then & Now' in the Village Club
FRI 13th	1.30pm	Storytime for 3 to 5 year olds - in Strathblane Library
SAT 14th	12 - 2pm	Scout Spring Sale in the Scout Hall, Dumbrock Road See Page 3 for more details.
TUES 17th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens - Bill Stewart - Accordion & Guitar in the Edmonstone Hall
FRI 20th	7.30pm	Blurred lines - Karaoke & Disco in the Village Club. Primary School Fundraiser (see P3)
FRI 20th	7.30pm	Blane Valley Burns Club AGM and at 8.15 by a Quiz Night in Edmonstone Hall (see Flyer)
FRI 20th	7pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms. All welcome
SUN 22nd	1 - 5pm	Village Jam Session in Village Club. All welcome. Contact George: Gethom@Tiscali.com
TUES 24th	7.30pm	Book Group in Strathblane Library (Please note - different week in month from normal)
FRI 27th	1.15pm	Craft & Story - in Strathblane Library (Places must be booked at the Library)
SAT 28th	7.30pm	Blanefield Thistle FC & SOSC Race Night in the Edmonstone Hall Tickets £10 (BYOB) from BTFC committee & SOSC

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