

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

May 2014 No. 22

Kirkhouse Inn For Sale

Can we save a vital asset for the community?

SCDT Chair Robert Davy writes:

As was reported at the May Community Council meeting the iconic Kirkhouse Inn is up for sale. Indications from the agent are that there is no interest in the property as a hotel and its other possible uses are for housing or a care home—although the site is designated for neither in the Local Development Plan. Such a change of use would mean the loss of a vital hub / community asset.

Initial discussions with the Development Trust Association suggest that, if community support is forthcoming and a workable business plan can be submitted, then funding may be available to take the site into community ownership and develop it for community benefit whilst retaining restaurant/bar facilities. Other communities have successfully carried out such schemes—see for example Tweedsmuir Community Company www.savethecrook.org.uk

Community facilities that could be housed on the site might include any of: self catering apartments, sheltered housing, office/hot desk facilities, gymnasium, training facilities, and the village library. The intention would be to support the activities of existing local groups and businesses, and to help develop new ones.

To get to the first stage of **'registering an interest in taking the Kirkhouse Inn into community ownership'**, however, we must establish whether there is a basic level of support in the community to try to develop proposals to save the site for community use. This allows us time to see if a viable proposal can be developed.

If you think the options should be investigated then let us know in any of the following ways:

- Complete the form inserted in your issue of the BVB and post it in the box provided in Strathblane Library (if more than one person living in your household supports the proposal please list all names).
- Download a form from the village website at strathblanefield.org.uk complete it electronically and email it to cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk
- Email us at cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk giving your address and the names of all those at that address who support the proposal.

We will pass on any additional information, as we get it, through the website, the Facebook page and the village noticeboards.

Please respond as soon as possible.

This issue is sponsored by the **BLANE VALLEY INN**
To book meals ring 770303 or email jamie@blanevalleyinn.co.uk
On Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Blanevalleyinn>
Coming soon: live music & Quiz Nights (Wanted acoustic musicians)

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DOG POO AGAIN! — After a campaign some months ago which produced a pleasing response from local dog owners and a much cleaner, safer environment — especially around the Primary School—there are now increasing signs of a return to old habits with excrement on the middle of pavements and a return to the dropping bags of dog poo by the side of footpaths. Could we respectfully remind all dog owners to think of the well being of others.

Please always **BAG IT and BIN IT**

Food Bank Donations

Several people, in the village, have asked about donating to food banks. At present, the collection points for tins, preferably with ring-pulls for easy opening, tea-bags, coffee, cereals etc., is in the Kirk Rooms Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4pm or anytime the Community Café is open during the summer months. Donations can also be left in the Parish church foyer when the Church is open.

These contributions are taken to The Glasgow City Mission for distribution to some of the neediest people in the city. All donations are very welcome.

WW1 Group looking for interesting exhibits for display

The First World War team will be holding an exhibition in the Kirk Rooms in November as part of the centenary events' programme. Do you have any artefacts relating to the First World War which you would be willing to share with the community & display at the exhibition? You may have **long forgotten photographs, letters, diaries, medals etc.** which would help to bring to life the period 1914-1918. Please contact Lynne James, Community Library Officer, 770737, Murray O'Donnell, 770748 or Pat Davy 770145

Why not join the growing number of local businesses and individuals who SPONSOR issues of the Bulletin?

Businesses can contact every household in the village with an advertising insert, but we are happy to preserve the anonymity of public spirited individuals. Contact cc@strathblanefield.org.uk for more details.

The Community Council in May

Here we focus on the major issues discussed at the May 12th meeting of the SCC. Some are dealt with in more detail elsewhere in this issue, and the full minute of a meeting will be available as usual on the web-site and the village noticeboards.

Community Resilience — the CC received a report on a SC seminar on community resilience which ran through coping in the face of 'disaster scenarios'. Copies of a very useful set of **emergency information leaflets prepared by Scottish Power** are available in the library. A pack is to be given to disabled and vulnerable residents including a fleece blanket, hand warmers, wind -up torch and a mains phone - **cordless phones do not work without mains power.** An emergency box for CCs will also be provided by Stirling Council

Roads — Here, along with discussion of coming road closures and the value of the Station Road Street Audit the focus of discussion was on the dangers of the Cuilt Road for West Highland Way walkers. It was noted that the change of ownership of the land on the north side may offer a new opportunity to negotiate an off-road path

Police Report — After a busy month PC McNally had news of some successes, and an increase in overnight crime (which has caused a change in police shift patterns). A dog attack on sheep leaving five dead and three injured and 'hit and run accident damage to a van outside the Shoptmart store were discussed. Police are looking for witnesses in the van case. The CC were concerned to learn of a change in Police Scotland Policy which means that the area will now be policed by a 'team' of officers and **the link of a community policemen which has worked so well for us will be broken.** PC McNally said that in future he will now only be able to attend CC meetings in Strathblane when his shift pattern allows, although those deputising for him will be able to comment on his written report.

Planning — On the only significant application - for a house in garden ground at Auchenberg House in Auchengillan the CC concluded that, while it was unhappy about the quality of the drawings and would take account of neighbour comments, it would neither support nor oppose the application. General concern was expressed over the likely impact of sale of the Kirkhouse Inn. (see page 1)

Councillor's Report — Cllr Lambie presented a comprehensive written report and discussion centred on roads, high hedges (eg the case at Valhalla), and CC representation at Mugdock Country Park.

Community Comments — Topics covered here included cardboard bins, rats in Kirkland Ave. (see above), and Coop parking (uncertainty remains over the ownership of the land opposite.

Copy date for the June BVB is Monday 16th.

Please send Calendar items for late May and June and any other news to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

RATS — A problem of rats has been reported in Kirkland Avenue and pest control officers have been involved. The likely cause - as with the sea gulls - seems to nearby residents throwing out food for the birds. **People are reminded that food waste must be disposed of in the caddies provided.**

Road Closures — Good news from this week's SW Stirling Rural Forum is that resurfacing work is scheduled this year for further stretches of the A81 and for Milndavie Rd in the village. So if you are planning holidays early August - when road closures are likely - might be a good time. More details should be available for the June SCC meeting.

June Community Council Meeting & AGM

The SCC meets on Monday June 2nd at 7.30pm in the School. After our AGM the Agenda will include the start of discussion of our priorities in the Stirling Council Budgeting exercise for 2015-16 and more on the summer road closures. Please come along and give us your views.

Village Tubs — following the beautiful displays in our village tubs this Spring the orders are now in for the summer planting and our new enhanced team of volunteers will get to work in the next week or two. For more details contact Elspeth Posnett: email [:elspeth@posnett.co.uk](mailto:elspeth@posnett.co.uk) or phone on 07714 756 810

Community Administrator Proposal

Strathblane Parish Church, the SCDT and the Community Council are putting together a proposal to fund a Community Administrator - someone who could undertake work for all the bodies on an agreed basis with the costs divided accordingly. **If any other organisation in the village would like to participate in this project** (taking their share of the cost) please email cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk

The Village Club is available for club activities and private parties. *Contact: Elspeth Posnett (07714756810), Keith Vass (770131)*

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police — 101 NHS 24 — 202
Ambulance — 999 Fire — 999

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

Elsbeth Posnett 770113

Sue Rand 770630

Mugdock Ward

Richard Arnold 770006

Philip Graves 0141 9561954

and

TWO VACANCIES

INFORMATION SOURCES: Strathblanefield website at 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 or ring 0845 2777000

Join My Stirling at www.stirling.gov.uk for updates

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

AGM May 28th at 7pm in the Village Club

Guest speakers from *Strathblane Out of School Care* on how a social enterprise works and from the *Craigend Castle Working Group* who will give an update on the project. Since last month's BVB 16 **new members** have joined SCDT.. Forms are still available in the library but why not come along to the AGM and join on the evening.

John Muir Way & Walking Through Strathblane

Following the launch of the John Muir Way there has been a noticeable increase in walkers through the area and several new outlets have agreed to take stocks of the *Walks around Strathblane* guide. Work on the three new **walk information boards** will be commissioned this month

Path Development Group — From Monday May 26th plans for the complete **Railway Path Upgrade** will be displayed in the Library we are keen to get comments and suggestions before we move on to the stage of applying for funding

Negotiations with Scottish Water on their provision of a new length of path on the route linking the railway line to the Gowk Stane track continue. It is likely to be some weeks before the work can be completed

First World War Group—Work is now nearing completion on the stories of those who lost their lives. A professional Designer has been contracted for the publication. An Exhibition is planned for November (See the appeal items below)

John Gordon Sinclair Book Launch Thursday 5th June 7 p.m.

Community Library Officer, Lynne James will be interviewing John Gordon Sinclair in Drymen Church Hall on Thursday 5th June as he launches his second novel "Blood Whispers" at an event hosted by Stirling Council Libraries.

While the event is free, names must be registered at Strathblane Library as places are limited. John Gordon Sinclair is shortly to take the part of Jeeves in the touring production of the successful West End play, "Perfect Nonsense" so this will be a rare chance to see him in more menacing mode!

THANK YOU

Karen Flashman writes: **Strathblane Parish Church** would like to thank those who participated in the Community Flower Festival in April. It was a great success and the floral arrangements were very impressive. What talent we have in the village "

Cathy Adams, writing on behalf of the **Strathblane Church Guild**, would like to thank all who contributed and helped to make the recent **Spring Fayre and Plant Sale** such a success. The sum of £1638 was raised in support of two charities, 'Out of Africa into Malta' a Guild project and 'Yorkhill Children's Charity'. Thanks also to Strathendrick Pipe Band whose playing was much appreciated.

The **Strathendrick Local Committee for Cancer Research UK** wishes to thank those who collected and all those who gave so generously in the 2014 House to House Collection. £1101.96 was raised in Blanefield and Strathblane and a total of £9847.62 in the Strathendrick area.

Look Out for a flyer coming through your door giving opening times for the summer **Community Cafe**, live viewing of the **Commonwealth Games**, street pitch football and lots more games fun in the **Kirk Rooms** this summer.

Exciting Developments in the Primary School Grounds

Kate Baxter writes:

You may have been wondering what all the tyres and building materials gathering in the school playground over the last six months have all been about. Strathblane Primary School, with the help of a dedicated Parent and Teacher Grounds Group, is in the process of developing its school grounds to enable the children to actively engage in outdoor learning and play. After consultations with children and staff, and with the help of children, staff, and parents, several developments have taken place.

With a grant from Central Scotland Green Network an **orchard** has been established and an outdoor storage container purchased. A **woodland area** and perimeter **wildlife hedge** have been planted with trees donated by the Woodland Trust. Tyres donated by local garages and farms have been used to construct climbing and play frames, and pathways to link them together and help minimise mud baths. A **greenhouse** made from plastic bottles and a **wildlife pond** have been added recently. The pond is securely fenced off and the gate locked—once completed a key will be kept in the library for any members of the community to borrow to access the pond. **Wooden benches** have been put in place around the grounds for classes to be able to gather together, and a fabulous **tepee den** and a flagstone 'stepping stone' pathway have been additions to the nursery garden.

A **wildlife garden** was made last year by the Primary Two class—the youngest group in Scotland to receive the **John Muir Trust Award**—and this year's Primary One class have designed and are now developing a **sensory garden** next to the library.

Before the end of the summer term we hope to install **tunnels and mounds**, kindly donated by Luddon Construction, and transported to the school by Black and Veatch, the contractors who are carrying out the work locally for Scottish Water. Black and Veatch have also donated railway sleepers, telegraph poles and fence posts, all of which have been very useful in the grounds development work.

We'd like to send out a really **big thank you to everyone** who has helped out in the many different ways in developing the grounds and enabled us to carry out this work; the amazing parents, grandparents, staff and pupils at Strathblane Primary, Peter Bendemacher the school janitor, the Ranger Team at Mugdock Park, Strathblane Parent Fundraisers, the Community Pathways Development Group and Community Council (who have lent us equipment and storage space), Clayland's Farm, Fintry Garage, Balfroon Garage and another local garage, Black and Veatch, and Luddon Construction.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

WED 28th	7pm	Strathblanefield Community Development Trust AGM in the Village Club
FRI 30th	7pm	Film Night (Childrens' & Adults' films running at the same time) in the Kirk Rooms
FRI 30th	7.30pm	Scottish Fiddle Journey-Concert by Alastair Savage & Friends; St Mary's Episcopal Church Aberfoyle Tickets £8. Bookings: Mark Seymour 01786 870710 or concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk
SAT 31st		Gathering in the Kirk Rooms — 10.30am, 1pm or 3.30pm.

JUNE

SUN 1st	1pm —	Big Community Picnic in the park - with Sunday School Races
SUN 1st	12.30 - 4	BBQ & Bowls - Taste a BBQ lunch & a session of bowls with instruction - Admission Free
SUN 1st	1 — 5pm	Village Jam Session in the Village Club. All welcome
MON 2nd	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council & AGM in the school. All welcome
WED 4th	— 6.30pm	Fit for a King — After School games in the park, followed by games, the King's own stories and a meal together in the Kirk Rooms. To register email lynnej1257@gmail.com or picking up a form in the library or at church.
FRI 6th	7 for 7.30	40th Anniversary Dinner in the Kirk Rooms. Tickets £20 from Isabel Brown 449062 and Karen Flashman 770979
SAT 7th	10am	Senior Citizens' Outing to Cardwell Garden Centre & Dunoon Leaving from the Surgery
SAT 7th	12 - 4pm	Strathblane Primary School & Nursery Summer Fayre - a fun day out for the whole community - lots of stalls and events refreshments (see below)
WED 11th	— 6.30pm	Fit for a King — as above. (more sessions to come in summer holidays)
TUES 17th	1.15pm	Craft and Storytime for Under 5s in the Library. Let staff know in advance to book a place
TUES 17th	7.30pm	Book Group - Last meeting before the summer break in the Library
WED 18th	2.30-3.15	Bookbug Summer Picnic & Rhyme Time. Strathblane Library

BBQ & Bowls at Strathblane Bowling Club

Sunday June 1st 12.30 - 4pm Admission Free

Come and enjoy a barbeque lunch and get a taster session of bowling. All the family welcome to join in the fun – experienced bowlers will be on hand to assist and instruct. Usual BBQ fare (inc. vegetarian) and bar facilities at very reasonable prices.



Bring flat soled footwear. Please advise numbers attending to Robert Taylor, 01360 771079; to help with catering.

STRATHBLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 7th June 12-4pm

A Fun Day Out for the Whole Community!

Large inflatables, Dog Show, Game & Activity stalls for the kids, Toy Tombolas, Mini Mudder Challenge, Plant Stall, Toddler Play Area, Storytelling with Jo Jo Gnome, Burgers, Beer Tent, Homebaking, Tug of War, Welly Whanging & much, much more!!

EDENKILN SURGERY

The surgery will be closed for the Forth Valley Public Holiday on Monday June 9th from 12 noon

and for staff training from 12.30 on Thursday June 26th

We can be contacted at 01360 770340 For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website

www.edenkilnsurgery.com

Police Surgery Times for May/June

at the Office in Strathblane Primary School (crime permitting) are not currently available.

Thursday May 29th — 6 - 7pm

Sunday June 1st — 6 - 7pm

Friday June 6th 12 — 1pm

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