

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

May 2016 No 42

Strathblanefield Community

Development Trust

AGM & Open Meeting

This year the SCDT has overseen three major path projects, but much else is going on as well. Other current Trust projects include taking over the bothy in the churchyard and tackling the drainage problems at the playing field. As a charity the Trust can be used to raise funds for community projects in a way not open to the Community Council.

An Open Public meeting — As the flyer in your Bulletin suggests the SCDT will be holding its AGM on Monday May 23rd 7.30 in the Village Club. The SCDT is a membership organisation with over 250 members. The Trust is keen to recruit new members (forms are available in the Library) — the bigger our membership the greater our ability to raise community funding. At the same time it always tries to ensure that its projects represent the interests of the whole community as closely as possible.

Give the SCDT your ideas — The SCDT is your vehicle to help get things done in the village. Do you have a project (at any stage of development) or thoughts on what might be done through the Trust? After the formal business of the AGM, there will be an open session. This is an opportunity over a glass of wine or a soft drink, for everyone to share their ideas on what should happen in our community, and learn more about the Trust and see how it might help with projects you are interested in.

**Please join us in the Village Club at
7.30pm on Monday May 23rd**



Paths Progress — With the upgraded Railway Path now open to all, we expect Danny's Brae to follow in under two weeks time and the Link path up to the Gowk Stane Track (funded by Scottish Water) to be finished soon after that. Look out for an official opening ceremony, we hope sometime in June.



Thanks...

Helen Peters

Terry and the family would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions of £580 in lieu of flowers at Helen's funeral. All monies raised were donated to Erskine Hospital.

They would also like to thank everyone for all their cards and gifts of home baking.

West Highland Way Walk

Sally, Fiona, Wendy and Lynne completed their West Highland Way walk and have been absolutely delighted by the support that has come in for their chosen cause "Funding Neuro". To each and everyone of you who has helped them reach a staggering £1850 so far (money is still arriving on the Just Giving page!) thank you so much from all four of them. Blisters notwithstanding, it was a great experience!

Hill Navigation Course at the Library

Sally Gray writes: Bob Sharp gave up his entire Saturday to run two navigation courses giving groups of adults an introduction to basic navigational skills using map, compass, smartphone apps, along with lots more skills, tricks and tips to increase our confidence in finding our way on low lying land. Apologies to anyone we may have "blanked" in the park as we earnestly counted our steps, or tried to plot our grid-references! We hope in future to practise our new-found knowledge on more challenging terrain. Many thanks Bob for a most enjoyable three hours, and to Stirling Council and Strathblane Library for providing the premises for our temporary classroom.

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

Businesses can include an advertising flyer which will go to every household.

Contact cc@strathblanefield.org.uk for more details.

Community Council May Update — from SCC Chair Margaret Vass

Roads Maintenance was our main topic this month. Jamie Wright, Stirling Council's Roads Manager and Gordon McLachlan, Team Leader for Rural Roads gave us a presentation outlining the difficulty of allocating meagre funds to maintain the 1111km of roads in their care. 44% need attention compared to the Scottish average of 36%. The current resurfacing cycle is 2.6% of roads per annum. Just to maintain the status quo would require this to increase to 4%, so our roads are getting steadily worse! The budget for this year 2016/17 is £5.57M compared with over £7M 10 years ago and inflation has eaten further into this by about 30%! To fix all current known defects would require expenditure of around £90M !! Would you believe that one 40 tonne lorry journey damages the road surface equivalent to 15000 car journeys.

We discussed the priority for this year's work on the A81 and given that the condition of the road between the Kirkhouse roundabout and the bend just below the 'devil's elbow' is deteriorating very fast (cost just now will be £30 per square metre compared to next year it could reach £200 per square metre) we agreed that this should be the priority. The road closure is likely to be in October.

Strathendrick Care Home building has now been

saved and has been removed from the assets to fund the Stirling Care Village — a significant victory for the rural south west villages! It will now be developed as an intermediate care facility with badly needed local services for local people.

Bungalows for older people proposal — There is still an offer on the table from Stirling Council for six older person's bungalows these will be designed to be dementia friendly. The houses would be allocated to Stirling Council tenant transfer applicants aged 55+ freeing up a larger home for a family, the next priority would be waiting list applicants aged 55+. This offer is only available if Stirling Council land is used. We know that current available and suitable land will not be without local controversy.

We have seen drawings for 2 bungalows which could be sited on the land at the corner of Kirkburn Road and Southview Road. Park Place is another suitable site. We have also identified a site at the end of Kirkburn Drive currently with tall spruces that need to be felled. It will be difficult to balance the needs of older people and the loss of green open space. We will be consulting the community at the school fair on the 11th June but welcome views sent to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk as well.

The next SCC meeting at 7.30pm on June 6th in the Primary School. Please come along and give us your views.

Copy Date for the June BVB is **Monday June 13th**. Please send Calendar items and news for the period up to mid-August to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Edenkiln Surgery

The surgery will be closed from 12.30 on June 13th for the Forth Valley holiday. We can be contacted at 01360 770340. For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website at www.edenkilnsurgery.com

The Village Club — enquiries and bookings:

www.villageclub1911.org
email — strathblanecv@gmail.com or
Contact — Fiona Murray 01360 771497
(Office hours only please)

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

Elsbeth Neill 771653

Sue Rand 770630

Mugdock Ward

Richard Arnold 770006

John Gray 771031

Grace Edmonds 770800

Rob Davies 771921

INFORMATION SOURCES: Strathblanefield website at www.strathblanefield.org.uk
Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; and the **Facebook** Strathblanefield Group

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

Free Taster Sail at

Loch Ard Sailing Club

Sunday 22nd May 1.30 - 4pm

Refreshments, Games for young people;

Bring a waterproof jacket & trainers

Everyone is welcome to come & have free sailing taster

session on Sunday, as part of the RYA's 'Push The Boat Out' week.

Visit us at www.lochardsc.org.uk



Rural Stirling

Housing

Association

NEWS UPDATE

We recently marked our 25th anniversary as an affordable housing developer and Registered Social Landlord (RSL). We now have almost 600 homes in management throughout the Rural Stirling area – with 14 due for completion in Strathblane later this year. We are continuing to build new homes to meet housing needs. See www.rsha.org.uk for more information.

Tender for Repair Services

We will shortly be tendering our Reactive Repair and Void Property Maintenance Service. We intend creating a Framework of contractors covering all the main trades for a 3 year period, commencing September 2016. By advertising in a range of local publications it is hoped to encourage locally resourced contractors to compete for inclusion on the Framework. Contractors will be able to access the tender documents and submit their bids on the Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) website - www.publiccontractscotland.gov.uk. If interested, you will require to register with PCS.

There will be 5 separate lots covering the following trades: Builder Works, Electrical Works, Joiner & Glazier Works, Plumbing Works and Painter Works. Contractors will only be permitted to submit a tender for a single Lot and will be appointed to the Framework on the basis of a price and quality assessment.

If you have any queries regarding the tendering process or operation of the Framework, please contact

Malcolm Lee, Senior Maintenance Officer

on 01786 841 101.

**Rural Stirling Housing Association, Stirling Road,
Doune FK16 6AA. Tel: 01786 841101 A Scottish Charity
- Registration No. SC037849**



Strathblane Primary School Summer Fair

June 11th 1 to 4pm.

A great day out for the whole family,
jazz band — inflatable assault course
bouncy castle— animals, — duck race
drinks tent — games —BBQ
and much much more.

And back by popular demand, the Bake Off!
**Please come along and support your school,
and please pray for sun!**

Support Your Local Football Team!

April marked the return of the Forth and Endrick football league. For those of you who don't know, it is an adult summer football league played on Tuesday and Friday/Saturday evenings.

In our 69th year of participation over the next few months Blanefield will meet the finest football talent the other Stirlingshire villages have to offer.

Cup finalists last year, we have made a strong start to the season this year and are looking to go one better in the cup competitions and hoping to disturb the established order at the top of the league.

The villages' support would be greatly appreciated so we hope to see you down at the football pitch one evening. Fixtures will be posted on the Strathblanefield Website, and in the BVB community calendar. Games for the rest of May are listed below:

Tuesday 24th May 7.30pm Kippen (Home)

Tuesday 31st May 7.30pm Gargunnoch (Away)

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Tuesday 31st May 7.30pm Gargunnoch (Away)

Like to know more about your Village Club?

its facilities, how to book, who is on the committee?

How you can get involved? Then come along to

Our AGM on Wed 25th May

7pm – 8pm in the Village Club

www.villageclub1911.org

Strathblane Kirk

The church has a new Facebook page - search for 'Strathblane Kirk' to be kept up to date with what's going on in and around the church. There are lots of activities available for all, such as **Tuesday morning cafe**; Thursday **Cuppa Time** (carers and those they care for especially welcome); Wednesday **Youth Sports** and Friday **Youth Cafe/Study Time** to mention a few.

In addition to Sunday services (11am and 6.30pm) we also run a mid-week prayer time on Wednesday evenings in the Kirk Rooms.

Final **Messy Church** of the term - Sunday 5th June from 3pm in the Kirk Rooms - all welcome to join us for crafts, games, informal biblestories and a meal. Donations are gratefully received for Messy Church, suggested amount of £6 per family group.

The kids' **SU Summer Holiday Club** will be the week of 15th-19th August contact us for more info (strathblanekirk@gmail.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

SUN 22nd	1 - 4.30	Free Taster Sail at Lock Ard Sailing Club — see page 3 for details
MON 23rd	7.30pm	Strathblanefield Community Development Trust - AGM in the Village Club. - see P1
TUES 24th	7.30pm	Blanefield Thistle v Kippen (Home)
WED 25th	7 - 8pm	Village Club AGM in the Village Club (see page 3)
TUES 31st	7.30pm	Blanefield Thistle v Gargunnoch (away)

JUNE

SAT 4th	7pm	Blanefield Thistle v Buchlyvie (away)
SUN 5th	2 -4pm	Traditional Music Session in the Village Club.All welcome (Contact: G Thom 771613)
MON 6th	10.30am	Bookbug @ Fun Hut
MON 6th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome
TUES 7th	7.30pm	Blanefield Thistle v Drymen (away)
SAT 11th	1 - 4pm	Strathblane Primary School Summer Fair at the school (see Page 3 for details)
SAT 11th	7pm	MF Cup Final - Venue & Opponents to be decided !
TUES 14th	7.30pm	Book Group - a Summer 'feel good' evening, only 'cheery books' allowed - in the Library
TUES 14th	7.30pm	Blanefield Thistle v Deanston (away)
SAT 18th	7pm	Blanefield Thistle v Balfron (Home)
FRI 24th	1.15pm	Summertime Craft & Story in the Libray
SUN 26th	1 - 5pm	Electric Jam Session in the Village Club.All welcome (Contact: G Thom 771613)

News from Blanefield House Care Home

In April Blanefield House families, service users and staff celebrated a successful second year under the ownership of Arti & Puja Poddar, in which the home instigated a full refurbishment programme and received very high inspection grades from the Care Commission.

Community Involvement —An important contributor to last month's launch of the Stathblane Dementia Project in the Kirk Rooms, the home is striving to develop further community links and welcome visits for afternoon tea and anyone within the local elderly community wishing to join for in house activities or meals. To find out more go to:

Twitter: @BlanefieldCare

Facebook: Blanefield House Care Home

Website: www.blanefieldcare.com

01360 771 011

Mock Bus Stop Helps Dementia

Blanefield House Care Home is using a novel strategy to help improve the safety & wellbeing of their service users with dementia – a fake bus stop. First trailed in Germany it allows residents living with dementia who can become disorientated but who, due to their active long term memory, know that the blue bus stop means it's a way for them to get from A to B, a place of safety.

During times of confusion, residents are able to wait at the bus stop in the security of their own care home. Home Manager, Mrs Armstrong, is "so pleased with the positive outcome it has for our residents."



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