

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet November 2014 No 27

## Priority-Based Budgeting 2014

### Community Conversation in Balfron

Six SCC members joined colleagues from across the West Stirlingshire villages on Tuesday November 25th to discuss the menu of difficult options that Stirling Council is forced to consider to keep within the limited budget allowed by central government at UK and Scottish levels, and to question and give reactions to council officials.

Options causing most general concern included the review of music and PE in Primary Schools which would mean the withdrawal of peripatetic music and PE specialists and support for an unevenly spread provision in the schools themselves. These and proposals to reduce the range of winter road treatment, to extend road end bin collection for out of settlement private roads, to go to a four-weekly brown bin collection (although everyone could have two brown bins) and to introduce charging for some costs of social care provision will all affect us here..

Amongst limited good news is a decision to keep all Libraries open, and to keep the two-weekly Grey bin collection—with the possibility of more user friendly hours for the Balfron Recycling Centre.

The SCC will decide on a response on behalf of the community at its meeting on Monday December 1st.

**If you have a point to make please come along or email us. You can also register your own views directly with on the SC website (see Page 2 for the url)**

### Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on

This year the lights will be switched on at 7pm on Tuesday December 9th at the Village Club. We are very pleased that the Dumbartonshire Wind Ensemble directed by our own Robert Baxter, will join us again to play Christmas music and carols. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

Donations are welcome to keep this event self-financing.

The usual huge turnout is expected!

### Scout Christmas Post

for Strathblane, Blane, Carbeth & Mugdock

Post Boxes & Stamps (25p) available at:

Strathblane Library & Pestle and Mortar

Post Boxes Only at:

Parish Church, Kirk Rooms, & St Kessog's

Key Dates: Stamps on sale & post boxes open:

November 18—December 19

Delivery by Beavers, Cubs Scouts & Parents:

Saturday December 20th

### This Month's Main Items

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### Whats going on in our villages?

*SCC Chair Margaret Vass writes*

There is a school of thought that says if you don't give prominence to a problem it will go away. So I have thought long and hard about whether to write this.

It is a long time since we have had an obvious problem with graffiti and bullying in our village, but we seem to have one now. It featured in the October Police report to the Community Council and has since got worse. The graffiti has been disgusting but must have been very distressing for those who were named in it. The graffiti close to the War Memorial just before Remembrance Sunday was an absolute disgrace and an affront to our community. At least two residents have had eggs thrown at their windows. Imagine how terrified young children were in their own home.

There has been a debate on the Strathblane Facebook page with various views expressed, some suggesting that it is just young people growing up and that at least it is safe for them to do that here! That may have been reasonable in the past, but times have changed. We are pretty sure that it is young people from this village are the perpetrators. When the Police catch them—and they will—these individuals will have a Police Record. Given the disclosure checks for employment this may affect them for a very long time. Please get the message out about the consequences for the perpetrators as well as the victims. We care about both.

Police are investigating. **Sergeant Adrian Robertson** said: "This graffiti is distasteful and unacceptable. We are looking for any information to help find who is responsible for graffiti painted on the roadway and walls in Blane—first on Nov 5th in Glasgow Rd and Campsie Dene Rd then between Nov 12th and 14th in Glasgow Rd. We believe the same person is responsible in both cases. We have spoken to a number of people and are following a good line of enquiry. We thank those who have given us information so far, but someone may just provide that piece of information which will allow the perpetrator to be charged."

**If you can help please call your local police on 101 or tell crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111"**

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

## The Community Council November Update

Our November meeting, as busy as usual, began with thanks for those of you who volunteered to clear and **plant the tubs** for the Winter & Spring.

The **Scottish Water Turbine Project** continues, as ever, slowly—but apparently the end is in sight. The main work is now for Scottish Power to make the connection to the grid. This will cause disruption to the ash track and to the pavement on the A81 up to the Edmonstone Hall—though thankfully not the new pavement. In recognition of the long-running disruption to the local community some pay-back from SW is coming in the form of a new multi-user path linking the railway track and the Gowk Stane Track (see page 3) and a water supply for the allotments.

We had, yet again, **no police presence** at our meeting for “operational reasons”. This means that, since May, we have seen a police officer only ONCE. We do receive a written report (detailed in the Minutes) but that is not the same as having our ‘well kent face’. We continue to join other villages in making representations about the adverse effects of the change in policing model.

The **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme for the village is developing slowly. We now have 36 individual registered members. Why have many more not joined? It is simple to do and it provides an important vehicle to alert residents if there is an emergency in the village and we need help.

So please go to the website and join—our village may need you

<http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/>

**Stirling Council's Priority-Based Budgeting** took up some time and is discussed elsewhere in this issue (Page 1). We also heard of the recent wide-ranging leadership changes in the Stirling Council administration. A big effort is now needed to establish strong partnerships with the new appointees.

As usual our **full minutes** are available on the village noticeboards and on the village website:  
[strathblanefield.org.uk](http://strathblanefield.org.uk)

## December Community Council Meeting

The SCC meets on Monday December 1st at 7.30pm in the Primary School. We will agree our comments on the Priority Based Budgeting options, consider the process of reviewing the Community Action Plan and hear about proposals for Edenmill Farm. Please come along and give us your views.

## Working in Partnership

To strengthen the SCC network within the community we have agreed named members to link with each organisation:

Alan Hutton:	SCDT and its Groups
Dick Arnold:	Edmonstone Hall; Blanefield Thistle; Strathblane Bowling Club.
Sue Rand:	Guides, Scouts etc & the Scout Hall
Marian Lever:	Lunch Club; Senior Citizens; Bridge Club
Elsbeth Neil:	Burns Club; the Guild; St Kessogs
Avril Keen	Parish Church; Netherblane Props. Association
Philip Graves	Mugdock Association.; Strathendrick Pipe Band
Margaret Vass:	Primary School Parent Council; Village Club; Tennis Club
Willie Oswald	Allotments Association Blane Residents Association; Heritage Society
Julie Hutchison	Strathblane Out of School Club; Fund Hut.

Again we would like to thank those groups who have already responded to the earlier call for the development of greater links between groups with the aim of sharing experience and discussing priorities for the community. We will be chasing the others.

Because of the delays in this year's Priority-based Budgeting process - now reaching late November - the opportunity to get together in a community 'conversation' in the villages is likely to be postponed until the New Year.

## 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

# STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

## World War One Project

The First World War Exhibition took place from the 7th to 11th of November. Many thanks are due to those who lent treasured items for display—items were coming in right up to the opening day—and to the numerous visitors. It is hoped to produce a CD of pictures of the exhibition with a copy to be held in Strathblane Library.

The group had been unable to find any surviving members of the Barr family whose son Jack had lost his life, but following the huge publicity for the book—with items on BBC Scotland and in the Herald, M&B Herald; Stirling Observer; Daily Mail and Sunday Post—to our delight Jack Barr's nephew Ken from Dunoon contacted us and was able to attend the exhibition and visit the memorial and the family gravestone.

Copies of *A Village Remembers* can be purchased from the Library, Pestle & Mortar and the Smithy Gallery. We will also have a stall at the Primary School Xmas Fair on the evening of December 5th and the Riverside Museum has provided us with a space at their Fair on December 6th & 7th (11 — 4pm).

## Path Development Group

**Renovating the Scary Path** This Saturday (30th) will be the final day of work on this project. Anyone who can spare an hour or two is invited to come along, bring your own barrow, rake or shovel if you can (not essential). meet at the Village Club.

**Railway Track to Gowk Stane Road Link Path.** Tender invitations have now gone out for this project which Scottish Water will fund and we hope to get the work done in the Spring.

**Provost's Award for Blane Residents Association** — On November 7th Sheena MacDonald, Fiona Murray and Margaret Vass attended the Provost's Dinner in Stirling Castle where they received the second most prestigious award of the evening for special achievement which they accepted on behalf of Blane Residents' Association and the whole community for their campaign to rectify the contamination issue that the residents faced. The citation concluded...“At the end of a long campaign, the garden areas were remediated and residential properties removed from the register of contaminated land all funded by public authorities. The group achieved changes to legislation and co-ordinated an extremely successful national publicity campaign. The Blane Resident's association achieved these seemingly impossible outcomes by working in partnership at all times. They avoided confrontation and communicated regularly and openly with all affected parties. Their perseverance and determination is highly commended.”



## Start-Up Stirling Christmas Appeal

This festive period, Start-Up Stirling will be distributing 200 Crisis Food Packs to those most in need in our community, providing food for around 160 people, around 40 of whom will be children. Please help us make this Christmas special for those who need our help by supporting us in one of the following three ways...

We would like to make the Food Packs we issue over the festive period special and Christmassy. You can help by donating small gifts of toiletries and toys, mince pies, Christmas puddings, selection boxes, chocolates, nuts, snacks, table decorations, napkins, Christmas crackers and other treats.

To help people buy a gift, buy a treat for themselves or to put towards the additional costs of heating and cooking we would like to include a £5 voucher with each Food Pack. Donations can be made online by following the links on our webpage, or by cheque/cash.

Over the winter, we would like to provide fresh fruit and veg in our Food Packs in addition to dried and tinned foods to help people make a fresh pan of soup. Please help us raise the funds we need for this by donating online

For more information, please phone 01786 561027 or email [admin@startupstirling.org.uk](mailto:admin@startupstirling.org.uk).

Many thanks for your support of this Appeal and for your help throughout the past year... it is greatly appreciated and makes a very real difference.

**Glasgow City Mission Food Bank** has been supported by Strathblane Parish for many years—to the tune of 15 car loads of food in the last year! If you would like to contribute you can now do so at the following collection points:

**Church** - Sunday mornings

**Kirk Rooms** - Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons

**Library** - as per normal opening hours.

**Strathblane Library** also collects items for Start-up Stirling  
Your generosity is appreciated.

## The RVS is active in Stirling Council Area.

We are an age-positive charity and we give practical support and help to older people based on what they choose or request. Royal Voluntary Service can offer support to older people in a variety of ways. Volunteers provide transport to medical and social appointments, offer a visiting/good neighbours service, and can help with shopping trips and bringing in shopping. We also have a Home from Hospital service, which supports older people for six weeks following a hospital stay, helping them to regain independence and quality of life.

If you know someone who could benefit from the Royal Voluntary Service's activities, or would like some help yourself, please contact our Stirling office on 01786 450718, (when calling on behalf of someone else please be sure to let them know first that you are referring them to us). We are also keen to recruit volunteers who can take service users out on foot/wheelchair/public transport, or spend time with them in their home. If you have a few hours to spare now and again and would like to get involved please contact us. The time you choose to donate is entirely flexible and you will be fully supported throughout your time with Royal Voluntary Service. Our volunteers report that they gain experience, confidence and a great deal of satisfaction from carrying out tasks for people and in particular they are happy with our working arrangements, where volunteers are under no obligation to perform set tasks or hours and can choose whether or not to accept each task.

**URGENT - Due to very recent changes in eligibility for patient transport, many people who previously used it to get to hospital now find that they do not fit the criteria. The impact of this has been that more older people are now requesting transport from Royal Voluntary Service. We urgently need more voluntary drivers to make sure that access to healthcare is available to all over the age of 60, regardless of circumstances. Could you provide a journey for an older person now and again? If so, please get in touch and we will be delighted to welcome you as a volunteer.**



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

SAT 29th	9am -4pm	<b>Scary Path - Final Day of Maintenance Work</b> — If you can spare an hour or two please join us to complete the work. Meet at Village Club
SUN 30th	1 - 5pm	<b>Village Club Jam Session</b> All welcome. Contact George: <a href="mailto:Gethom@Tiscali.com">Gethom@Tiscali.com</a>

## DECEMBER

MON 1st	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council Meeting</b> in the Primary School. All welcome
MON 1st	10.30am	<b>Bookbug at FUN HUT</b> — Strathblane Library Bookbug visits. Come along for the half hour session of rhymes and stories
TUES 2nd	7.30pm	<b>Senior Citizens - Annual Prize Draw and Quiz</b> in the Edmonstone Hall
TUES 2nd	7.30pm	<b>Knit and Natter</b> in the Manse
WED 3rd	2.30pm	<b>Christmas Time with Bookbug in the Library</b> - Bookbug will be singing Christmas songs and telling Christmas stories for babies and toddlers
TUES 9th	7 pm	<b>Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On</b> at the Village Club. Carols & Christmas music with the Dumbartonshire Wind Ensemble. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Donations welcome.
SUN 14th	2 - 4pm	<b>Fun Hut Christmas Party Family Fundraiser</b> in the Village Club Kid's Disco & Mini Ceilidh with Guest Dj Alex Casteel, Party Games, Festive Stalls, Raffle & Refreshments. Entry £3 per person or £10 family ticket... and <b>Santa will be there.</b>
SUN 14th	6.30pm	<b>Service of Lessons and Carols</b> in Strathblane Parish Church
TUES 16th	7.30pm	<b>Book Group</b> - Last meeting of the year. Don't forget to bring your Santa book. Strathblane Library
THUR 18th	3 pm	<b>Short Service of Communion</b> in Strathblane Parish Church
WED 24th	4pm	<b>All age Christingle Service</b> in Strathblane Parish Church
WED 24th	11.30pm	<b>Watch Night Service</b> in Strathblane Parish Church with <b>Community Carol Singing</b> from 11.15
THUR 25th	10.30am	<b>Christmas Morning Service</b> in Strathblane Parish Church
SUN 28th	4 pm	<b>Reflections on 2014</b> followed by food in the Kirk Rooms

## JANUARY

MON 12th	10.30am	<b>Bookbug at FUN HUT</b> — Strathblane Library Bookbug visits. the FUN HUT. A new year and new rhymes and songs
WED 28th	7.30pm	<b>Heritage Society</b> Colin Castle on Glasgow Trams & Trolley Buses. Village Club. All welcome
SAT 31st	6.45pm	<b>Blane Valley Burns Supper</b> Tickets: George Eastcroft (770390) or the Library ( <b>See Flyer</b> )

Copy Date for the January BVB is Monday 19th. Send Calendar items & other news to [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)

### EDENKILN SURGERY

We will be closed on December 25th & 26th & January 1st & 2nd

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)

**The Village Club** — available for public and private functions. To check availability, book or get 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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