

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet    October 2013 No.16

## Protect Your Property — Thieves are about

*Community Police Officer David McNally writes:* The purpose of this note is not to alarm anyone but to advise you on how to protect your property.

Autumn and winter bring dark nights and poorer weather and, traditionally, an increase in housebreaking and theft in west Stirlingshire. Whilst things have been pretty quiet over the last five years, this September and October have seen a return to old habits. A number of different groups of housebreakers have been targeting homes in Strathblane, Mugdock, Killearn and Gartness. Jewellery, TVs and computers were stolen in around ten incidents both overnight and during the day. In addition two expensive Audi cars have been taken at night by thieves who broke into houses and found the car keys.

**Do not make things easy for car thieves:** NEVER leave car keys in view and at night make sure they are well out of the reach of criminals. On cold winter mornings NEVER leave a car engine running on your driveway. You would not be insured for loss in those circumstances.

**Take all appropriate measures to protect your home:** keep jewellery out of sight in a place where thieves would not expect to find them; lock doors when you are out; and keep keys within your home hidden from view.

Most importantly keep an eye on your neighbours' homes and, if you see anything that seems suspicious or you are unhappy about **call the police immediately by dialling 999**. It doesn't matter if it turns out to be a false alarm: better safe than sorry.

Balfron Police Office is staffed 24 hours a day and officers are on patrol and always nearby. So far, as a result of vigilant neighbours and follow-up investigative work we have found and returned; both stolen Audis. A number of people have been arrested and charged with six of the housebreakings; and stolen property has been recovered. But there is still work to do and any help from the public is greatly appreciated.

**But remember — prevention is always better than cure.**

**From the October Community Council** — As a footnote to David McNally's piece we should note that in the debate surrounding his report to the SCC meeting a number of concerns relating to petty thefts, damage to property - private and public - loitering, drinking and other anti-social behaviour (including, of course, dog fouling) in recent weeks. As the play park nears completion we should be guarding the investment of funds and community effort to achieve such a great facility.

Here we should draw attention the new **101 service** which replaces all local police station numbers. If you dial 101 (no code required) in cases that don't need an emergency response - such as loitering or suspected anti-social behaviour - the call will be directed to our local officers on duty day and night who can follow up the issue.

**This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored  
by the Netherblane Proprietors' Association**

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## MAKING CONTACT

Email the SCC at

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

## Get in touch with your Community Councillors

Margaret Vass	770131
Richard Arnold	770006
Philip Graves	0141 9561954
John Gray	771031
Julie Hutchison	770791
Alan Hutton	770537
Marian Lever	770536
Susan Morgan	771747
Willie Oswald	770497
Elspeth Posnett	770113
Sue Rand	770630

## 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 updates

## The Community Council in October

Here we focus on the major issues discussed at the September meeting the full minute is available as usual on the website and the village noticeboards.

**Brown Bins** - David Hopper (SC) explained that the sudden ending of brown bin collection was a direct effect of the work to rule and overtime ban by staff in the current industrial dispute. Given a resolution of the dispute a further collection may be made. DH said he would look into the problems of some residents without boxes for cardboard. *Pro tem* the brown wheelie bins by the library could be used for cardboard (only). An informative discussion covered a number of issues including recycling plastic, grey bin inspections, access times at the Balfron depot and the importance of composting.

Stewart Smolarek of Scottish Water gave an **illustrated update on the generator installation project**. Noting comments on the dangers associated with construction vehicles he reminded us of the Customer Helpline at 0845 645 8811 for information and reporting problems (quote capital 40453). The temporary car park will be removed and the railway track path left in a good walkable and cycle-able condition.

**Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign** - It was reported that banners and posters had been put up at strategic points around the villages - especially beside the school. This was followed on October 4th by a 'dog poo identification and spray exercise' which, despite heavy rain on the previous night produced a count of 87 dog poos in the main walking areas. Encouragingly Head-teacher Sandra Logan has reported a significant fall in fouling around the school.

**Blanefield Contaminated Land Issue** - The Community Council were dismayed to hear from Cllr Berrill that a report on loans for remediation work was on the Stirling Council Agenda for this week despite an agreement to put this issue 'on hold' and with no consultation with those involved in the village. Following representations, the item was subsequently deferred from Thursday's Council Agenda.

**BT & the A81** - Stephen Todd of SC has confirmed that the recent BT road excavations will be fully reinstated 'as new'. The current patches are temporary. Sadly this will mean another road closure at some point.

**Campsie Road housing site** - the first meeting of the Community Panel set up by RSHA to ensure a strong community input into the issues that could arise in the negotiations with the potential developer Cala Homes as this development is shaped. The panel has four SCC members and two other local residents. Whilst our main object is to secure as many affordable homes as possible to meet local needs we are also concerned with other issues - including implications for traffic calming and footpaths and the visual impact of the development as a whole. A full note of the first meeting is available on the village website.

**Anyone potentially interested in renting an affordable home** on this site should register their interest with RSHA - more information on the village website and noticeboards.

**The Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on** is scheduled for Tuesday December 10th and will again feature the Dumbartonshire Wind Ensemble—details to follow.

### The John Muir Festival

A new cross country path from Dunbar to Helensburgh— The John Muir Way — is to be opened next spring around the 100th anniversary of JM's death and Strathblane will be the only community in Stirling on the route. SC are encouraging a celebration of this between 17<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The Community Council proposes a walk by villagers including local school children (?) along our part of the trail.

Funding availability for celebration events is limited, but we might be able to apply for a special community pride grant to pay, for example, for finger posts and two information boards (for the Church Car Park & the Library) mapping, for visitors and locals, the Blane Valley walking and cycling routes which branch off from the John Muir Way.

### Broadband - Step Change?

In its contract with the Scottish Government BT is committed to providing 'next generation' broadband coverage to 93.4% of premises in Stirling Council area - well above the 80% original expectation - the result of a combined investment from BT, the Scottish Government and SC. BT's technical work proceeds so it remains unclear which areas will receive next generation broadband and when. The Step Change Delivery Team is setting up a website which will provide details of the project and information on upgrades when it becomes available. We will pass on a link to the site when we have it. **Watch this space.**

**Next SCC Meeting?** The timing of the next meeting of the Community Council is uncertain because of the elections. If a poll is needed next month then the current Council will be able to hold a meeting on Monday November 4th at 7.30pm in the School. If no poll is required, however, the present Council will cease to exist and the Inaugural Meeting of the new Council will be organised by Stirling Council sometime around the end of November. Either way we will not be able to give you the usual period of notice of the meeting. Look out for information on the Strathblanefield website, noticeboards and Facebook.

**Ways to give us your views or alert us to an issue:** contact one of your Community Councillors directly. (phone nos. on Page 1), email the Community Council at [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk) or come along to Community Council meetings.

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

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There are only a few days left to get in nominations for the Community Council. The Candidates Pack including Nomination Forms can be downloaded from the village website. The ELECTION TIMETABLE is:

- Nominations to be submitted by- Friday October 25 (4pm)
- Nomination to be withdrawn by- Friday October 25 (5pm)
- Publication of Notice of Poll— Wed Oct 30 & Friday Nov 1
- Issue of Ballot Papers— from Monday November 4
- Ballot Papers to be returned by— Friday November 22

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# STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

**Path Development Group** With the Railway Path Feasibility Study (Funded by LEADER) , the Playpark Footpath Upgrade (funded by Paths-forAll) and our Street Audit Training exercise all complete within the next few weeks the Group is moving on to follow-up each of these projects. An audit of the footway up the A81 to the Loch Ardinging Reserve is under discussion as is the possibility of seeking funding for Path maintenance Group volunteers to do some of the work. Most importantly, with the help of Richard Baron of Stirling Council we are beginning the task of raising a sum of about £160,000 required for the planned work on the railway line path.

## STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the SCDT will be held in the Village Club on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013** at **7pm**. All current members are eligible to attend. Copies of the relevant documents and the Agenda have been sent out to members by e-mail and sets will be available in the library and on the village website [www.strathblanefield.org.uk/](http://www.strathblanefield.org.uk/).

Robert Davy, Chair SCDT

**Greenheart** Following receipt of additional funding from Stirling Council in the form of a Community Pride Award and an anonymous donation , the group has been able to proceed with the whole of this phase of the project. A third picnic bench , metal seat to replace the worn out wooden bench and a bench to go around the base of one of the beech trees beside the football pitch will now be included.

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## Strathblane Will Remember Them

### First World War project to commemorate those on the War Memorial

Do you know any of these men? Are you related or do you know anyone who is? Most of the addresses with which they were associated will be familiar to you. We have lots of information but would love some photos, letters etc. If you can help, please contact Murray O'Donnell 770748, Lynne James 770737, Pat Davy 770145 or Charlie Kerr 770012.

John Barr (Westerton of Mugdock)	Philip Binnie (Park Terr.)	Robert Blair (Carbeth Guthrie)
James & William Cartwright (Dumgoyne)	William Devlyn (Burnside, B/field)	John Dillon (Dumbrock)
George Don (Maryfield Pl., B/field)	William Edmonstone (Duntreath)	William Ker (Easterton of Mugdock)
Alexander Lowe (Parklea Lodge)	John McCulloch (Craigallion Bothy)	Donald McIntyre (Blairquhosh)
James MacIntyre (Milndavie House)	Donald MacNeil (Alreoch, S/blane)	Alexander Mitchell (Dumbrock)
Daniel Morrison (Dumbrock)	Wilfrid Moyes (The Manse, S/blane)	Robert Orr (Leddriegreen)
William Paterson (Arlehaven, S/blane)	Colin Rankin (Doctor's, Dumbrock Rd.)	
Robert Rigg (Cottages, Westerton of Mugdock)	James Robb (Park Terr.)	Archibald Scott (Khyber Cottage)
Michael Stewart (West Lodge, Dinneiddwg, Mugdock)	Ferguson Thomson (Clachan, Carbeth)	
	Eric Yarrow (Campsie Dene House)	

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### The Scottish Poppy Appeal

*Local Poppy Appeal organiser Moira Drennan writes:* As Remembrance Day approaches the red poppy will again become a familiar sight around our villages. There will be tins in every business, shop, hotel, and pub; in the Library, surgery and pharmacy. Volunteers will make a house to house collection. The Rainbows, Guides and the Primary School will collect enthusiastically as staff work hard to raise the youngsters' awareness and understanding of veterans, remembrance and the significance of the Poppy.

Last year's local appeal raised a wonderful £1946 — per capita more than twice the national average.

So please give generously again this year to help make a real difference to the lives of veterans of the Armed Forces and their families.

### Support the Craig Hodgkinson Trust

Craig's Trust, which is donating our community-based defibrillator, has made it through to the last four of the Bank of Scotland Community Fund award. The fund will benefit one organisation in Stirlingshire by giving them £3000. You can support the fund by voting for them. It is quick and easy to do Go to [www.bankofscotland.co.uk/communityfund](http://www.bankofscotland.co.uk/communityfund) and put either your postcode or 'The Craig Hodgkinson Trust in the search box and then clicking on the icon. You also need to give your email address and you will be sent an email asking you to confirm your vote by clicking on a link. That is all! It only takes a few minutes.

Please support this local charity which remembers a young man who grew up in the village.

**Every vote counts.**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

MON 21st	7.30pm	<b>Guild</b> — James Simpson on “Dr Graham’s Homes” in the Kirk Rooms
MON 21st		<b>Poppy Scotland Collection</b> begins in the village and continues to November 12th
WED 23rd	7pm	<b>Strathblanefield Community Development Trust AGM</b> in the Village Club.
WED 30th	6.30 - 7.30	<b>MindBody YOGA Class</b> in the Village Club (and every Wed except Nov 27th). For more information go to <a href="http://www.chakrasatmindbodyyoga.com">www.chakrasatmindbodyyoga.com</a> or Facebook.com/MindBodyYOGA
WED 30th	2.30-3.15	<b>Bookbug</b> - Babies & Toddlers are welcome to join in seasonal rhymes & stories - in the Library

## NOVEMBER

FRI 1st	1.15pm	<b>Story and Craft for pre-school children</b> in the Library
FRI 1st	4.30 - 6.30	<b>Messy Church</b> — Fun for all the family in the Kirk Rooms. £6 per family.
SAT 2nd	10pm - 12 noon	<b>Charity Christmas Card Sale</b> in the Kirk Rooms. Tea & home baking. Tickets £2 from any Guild Committee member or at the door.
SAT 2nd	10 - 4pm	Milngavie Art Club <b>Christmas Sale of Original Art</b> (& charity Raffle of picture) in Town Hall
MON 4th	7.30pm	<b>Guild</b> — Mrs Liz McGregor “A Fellowship to Build” in the Kirk Rooms
SUN 10th	10.50am	<b>Remembrance Ceremony at War Memorial</b> with parade to & service in Parish Church
MON 11th	10.50am	Gathering in the Graveyard for <b>Remembrance Service at Memorial for Civilians who died in wars</b> . Lunch afterwards in the Kirk Rooms.
WED 9th	6.30 - 7.30	<b>Mindful YOGA Class</b> in Village Club
FRI 15th	1.30pm	<b>Storytime</b> - pre-school children welcome to join Storytime in the Library
FRI 15th	7pm	<b>Quiz Night</b> in the Kirk Rooms. Savoury finger buffet. Tickets £2 (see posters)
SAT 16th	7.30pm	<b>Fundraiser with JAMES HONEY BAND &amp; JANE BUTTON</b> in the Edmonstone Hall. Proceeds for School form Life Romania. Tickets: Katie Goodier 771125 / 07985 970890.
MON 18th	7.30pm	<b>Guild</b> — Mrs Doreen Snadden “50 Years of Nursing” in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 19th	7.30pm	<b>Bookgroup</b> in the Library
TUES 19th	7.30pm	<b>Senior Citizens</b> — Speaker Richard Begg in the Edmonstone Hall
WED 20th	7.30pm	<b>Heritage Society</b> - David Carson presents <i>The Clydebank Blitz</i> in the Village Club. All welcome
THUR 28th	1.30-2.45	<b>Holiday Craft &amp; Storytime</b> for 4 - 7 year olds. Please contact the Library to book a place.
SAT 30th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Lawn Tennis Club St Andrew’s Night Quiz</b> in the Village Club. Tickets £30 per table (max 6 per table) BYOB, Raffle. Tickets from 771031, 771571, or the Library

Please send all late-November & December events for the Calendar and other items to [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk) by the Copy day - Monday November 18th -

**Why not sponsor an issue of the BVB? Local businesses can also contact every household in the village with an advertising insert.**

### EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

**There will be more ‘Flu Jab Clinics** - dates to be arranged, ring surgery for details. 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)

### Police Surgery Times

**for November** at the Office in Strathblane Primary School (crime permitting)

Sunday 10th	2 - 3pm
Friday 15th	11am - Noon
Wednesday 20th	6 - 7pm
Sunday 24th	1 - 2pm
Saturday 30th	7 - 8pm

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)