

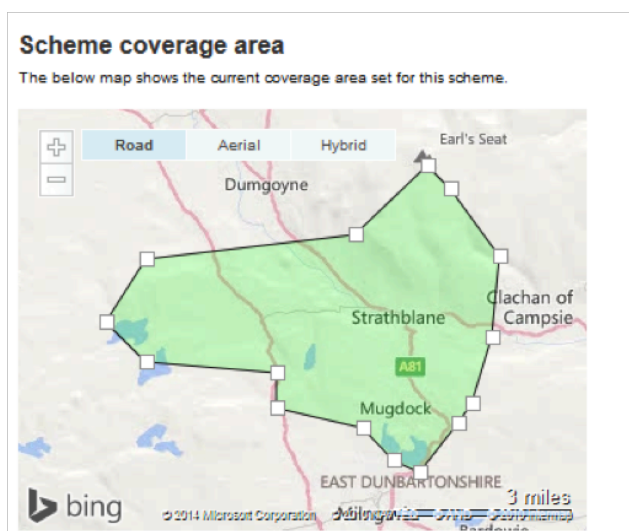
BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet October 2014 No.26

New Neighbourhood Watch in Strathblane

Peter Kirwan *of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland writes*

Strathblane is now a Neighbourhood Watch area! We hope you will consider joining and participating in the watch which will be managed through the Strathblane Community Council. While it can also build a sense of community, the main purpose of a watch is to increase safety for people in your local area. The first step for those of you involved, then, will be to determine what your local concerns are and how you can work together to address these and make your community safer. Sometimes these concerns will involve crime but many successful neighbourhood watches in low crime areas successfully improve safety in other ways such as by increasing awareness of house fire risks.



You can join the watch by clicking the green join button at <http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/>. At step 5 you just need to click another join button and you can select to apply to join Strathblane Neighbourhood Watch.

This sign up process also gives you the opportunity to sign up for Neighbourhood Alerts. This is our new community safety alert system which enables you to get safety information from bodies like Police, Fire, Trading Standards and your local authority, on the subject you want to hear about in the way you want (email, text or voicemail).

I'm sure Strathblane's Neighbourhood Watch will be a great success.

Copy Date for the November BVB is Monday 17th. Send Calendar items & other news to cc@strathblanefield.or.uk

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@strathblanefield.org.uk for more details.

This Month's Main Items

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1st World War & Remembrance Events	see FLYER

Stirling Council Priority-Based Budgeting 2015/16 NEW COMMUNITY CONVERSATION DATES

Since the September BVB Stirling Council have re-scheduled all the meetings at which local representatives and members on the public can have their say on priorities for spending on local services in the 2015/16 budget. The schedule is now as follows

Monday 27th October - Killin Primary School

Thursday 30th October - Stirling High

Tuesday 4th November - McLaren High

Thursday 6th November - Dunblane High

Tuesday 11th November - Wallace High

Thursday 13th November - Bannockburn High

Tuesday 25th November - Balfour Campus

(meetings are from 7.00 pm - 9.00pm):

Comments, suggestions or ideas can be emailed to shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk

You can find more information on Shaping Stirling's Future on Stirling Council website: www.stirling.gov.uk/shapingstirling

Cardboard Re-cycling — David Hopper of Stirling Council Waste Services Dept. has reported to us that because of a lack of resources they cannot provide brown boxes for cardboard to rural households who currently do not have them until 'late 2015/early 2016'. In the three months (Dec-March) of this winter when there is no brown bin collection those households have three options: to use the cardboard facilities at Balfour; to co-operate with a neighbour to use a brown box left on a run where collection does take place; or (less environmentally desirable) to put cardboard in the grey bin.

KIRKHOUSE INN VOUCHER

Copies of this issue of the BVB act as a **Buy One Get One Free** voucher for a 2-course (Starter & Main) Festive Lunch or Dinner on December 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th 2014.

Note that for this offer customers must book in advance.

This Issue of the Blane Valley Bulletin is sponsored by **The Kirkhouse Inn**

Refurbishment continues & the Bar re-opens on the weekend of October 31st

Contact Details: Tel 01360 771771

email: info@kirkhouseinn.com

The Community Council October Update

Good News. Chair Margaret Vass was able to begin the meeting with the news that the Blane Residents Association had received a Civic Award in recognition of its campaigning work over the last two years.

Scottish Water Update. We welcomed Stewart Smolarek, Project Manager for the Scottish Water Turbine Project who reported that the major construction is complete, bar testing a section of pipe, but Scottish Power have yet to install the power cable. It is anticipated that will be completed (in five stages) by Christmas. There was concern that Scottish Water could not give a clear-cut commitment to providing a new stretch of footpath linking the Railway and Gowk Stane Tracks which we understood to be promised as one of the few elements of 'community benefit' from this major and disruptive project. (See page 3)

Neighbourhood Watch. Lisa Toon, National Development Officer for Neighbourhood Watch gave a short, clear and convincing talk on the, virtually cost free, advantages of establishing a Neighbourhood Watch. The CC agreed that it would be desirable to proceed to establishing one for our CC area. (see report on page 1)

Naming the New Road. Our earlier suggestions were not acceptable to Stirling Council. SC then proposed 'Netherton Crescent' which was not acceptable to us. After a discussion of other options we settled unanimously on Braidgate - the historic name for Broadgate, the local farm.

Under Community Issues we received a detailed and very valuable report from a local resident citing a range of significant instances of **anti-social behaviour**. These included fouling, littering, dumping of garden waste and the detritus of 'wild camping' - many of these affecting areas close to the children's play park. Equally serious were a range of instances of car driver behaviour: regularly 13 and on one occasion 15 cars filled the Library Car park around school closing time whilst others were illegally parked part on the road and part on the footway - all compounded by frequent speeding along Kirkburn Road. **Why are so many motorists concerned to preserve the convenience of other drivers whilst ignoring the interests of footpath users?** The CC takes all these issues very seriously and will return to them at future meetings.

November Community Council Meeting

The SCC meets on Monday November 3rd at 7.30pm in the Primary School. PBB and roads issues are likely to be on the agenda. Please come along and give us your views.

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

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.

A New Health Care Strategy for NHS Forth Valley

As the current strategy ends in 2014 the Health Board is reviewing its priorities and is seeking help from local people. They are looking at the following clinical areas:

- Cancer care
- Care for older people and end of life care
- Mental health and learning disability services
- Emergency and out-of-hours care
- Routine care – planned appointments, operations and treatment
- Long term health conditions and chronic diseases
- Clinical support services and infrastructure
- Care for women and children

There is a simple questionnaire to complete on the Health Board website www.nhsforthvalley.com/shapingourfuture

If you prefer you can write to: :

Robert Stevenson, Senior Planning Manager, Freepost RRLS-JAXC-AZZE, NHS Forth Valley, Carseview House
Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4SW. or
email shapingourfuture@nhs.net

Older People's Reference Group needs YOU!

Working to improve the quality of life of older people in the Stirling area this group, supported by Stirling Council needs new members especially from rural areas. Anyone over 50 and interested in having a say on the issues affecting older people in communities can join in. The group, which meets four times a year, is consulted on issues which are especially important given the current changes to social care and health as well as Housing, Transport and Community Safety. For more information contact Claire McDonald, Committee Support Officer, Democratic Support, 01786 233077.

Working in Partnership

We would like to thank those groups who have already responded to last month's front page 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]

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

Renovating the Scary Path Many of you will have noticed that the Path Development Group project to re-surface the 'Scary Path' has made some initial impact over the last two Saturdays with the help of six and nine volunteers respectively. We have our complement of ten volunteers for the Paths for All run Action day on the 25th but a bit more work will be needed to complete the job. If you can help on future Saturdays you should contact Calum Craig Tel: 07974781281 for more details.

Railway Track to Gowk Stane Road Link Path. Concerns were raised at the October Community Council meeting when Stewart Smolarek of Scottish Water suggested there was a possibility that SW might not be able to fulfill what we had taken to be a promise of providing a new section of multi-user path joining their existing tarred track to the track on Edward Pickard's land. This would complete an important link in our 'core path' network. Since the SCC meeting discussions have begun again between the Path Development Group, Edward Pickard and Stewart Smolarek and we are now more confident that a satisfactory outcome can be

World War One Project. Since its launch on September 20th *A Village Remembers* has already sold well over 400 copies. Editor/author Anne Johnstone this week gave an illustrated talk in the Milngavie Bookshop and in a week's time will address the Strathendrick Probus Group.

Around the time of Remembrance, when this year we also mark the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1, the book will be complemented by three related events: a **World War One Exhibition** in the Kirk Rooms (Nov 7th - 11th); a talk to the Heritage Society by Craig Mair on 'World War One in the Stirling Area' (Nov 12th); and 'Remembering World War One' an evening of readings and songs with the Blane Valley Players (Nov 14th). A full listing is given in the Flyer distributed with this issue.

Copies of *A Village Remembers* can be purchased locally at Strathblane Library and Pestle & Mortar and at the Smithy Gallery and online at the village website <http://www.strathblanefield.org.uk/history/AVillageRemembers.html>

at a concessionary price of £10 until Remembrance Day. All proceeds from the book will go to Erskine.

Wanted for exhibition! There is still time to lend memorabilia from the First World War for the Exhibition in the Kirk Rooms 7th-11th November 2014. Do you have any family photos from this period of soldiers in uniform, women at work, letters from the front, postcards, artefacts egs. trench art, household items, medals, militaria etc.? The material does not need to relate to the village but just the First World War years in particular. If you have anything you'd like to see on display, Lynne James at the library (770737)

Smartwater Project

Three SCC members attended the official Scottish National Media launch of a co-operative Scottish Police/Smartwater scheme on Monday 29 September.

Under the scheme Police will provide 'Smartwater' property marking kits free of charge to householders in some areas of Blanefield and Killearn in which analysis suggests are attractive to housebreakers. Those in Blanefield should have been contacted by now.

Those not included in the test areas can take advantage of a special launch offer of a one-off payment of £25 by going to the website at www.smartwater.com

Two Opportunities to Buy Your CHRISTMAS CARDS

There will be a **Charity Christmas Card Sale and Coffee Morning** in the Kirk Rooms from 10am - 12 noon on **Saturday November 1st**

AND

from November 3rd until the end of the month **Strathblane Library** will have **Charity Cards on sale.**

On a sunny Sunday in September local ladies turned out in force to raise almost £3,000 for Cancer Research UK. CRUK Strathendrick Local Committee and Frox of Falkirk staged a luncheon and fashion show at Culcreuch Castle in Fintry which realised £2,934.05. The castle and grounds looked splendid in the autumn sunshine and a lovely lunch was enjoyed by everyone. Fiona Wilson of Frox and her team of models put on a great show ranging from simple tops and trousers to a stunning sequin dress and glorious wedding outfits. The committee expressed their thanks to all involved for contributing to the total amount raised and for helping to make such an enjoyable afternoon.



Raffle prizes were donated by:-Frox of Falkirk; Culcreuch Castle; Beauty at No 25 in Milngavie; Endrick Trading Ltd in Balfron; Aesthetic Cosmetics, Dumbarton Road, Glasgow; Brogan Hair Salon in Milngavie; Keith Baxter Golf Pro at Buchanan Castle Golf Club; T&R Skinner Butchers in Kippen; Oakwood Garden Centre, Killearn; The Kippen Inn and Rhubarb Lime Coffee Shop also in Kippen.

EDENKILN SURGERY

We will be closed on November 26th 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 make a booking or ask for further information please ask Keith Vass or Elspeth Neill.

Keith Vass – keithvass13@gmail.com 770131
Elspeth Neill - elspethneill@gmail.com 771653

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

SUN 26th	3pm	Mugdock Bulb Planting Meet at grass triangle in village, refreshments, bring spade. All welcome
WED 29th	2.30pm	Spookbug in the Library for babies & toddlers - a special spidery songs & rhyme session. Can you bring along an incy wincy spider?
THURS 30th	7.30pm	Blane Valley Allotments Association AGM in the Village Club
FRI 31st	1.15pm	Craft & Story Session for Pre-School and Nursery Children - Pumpkin stories & crafts in Strathblane Library. Please let a member of Library staff know if you are coming.
FRI 31st	7pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms (Main Hall: The Memorial Men; Room 3 - TBC)

NOVEMBER

SAT 1st	10 - 12	Strathbane Guild Charity Christmas Card Sale in Kirkrooms. Entrance £2 incl. refreshments.
SUN 2nd	1 - 5pm	Village Club Jam Session All welcome. Contact George: Gethom@Tiscali.com
MON 3rd	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome.
MON 3rd	7.30pm	Guild - Julius Project Speaker Morag Donaldson in the Kirkrooms
TUES 4th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens - Allander Jazz Band. In the Edmonstone Hall
TUES 4th	7.30pm	Knit and Natter in the Manse
FRI 7th	7.30 - 9pm	World War I Exhibition Opens in Kirkrooms Runs until Nov 11th. See flyer for times
SUN 9th	10.45am	Remembrance Service, Procession and Community Lunch. Short service at the War Memorial, procession through village led by the Strathendick Pipe Band and uniformed organisations to Parish Church for service there, followed by Community Lunch in the Kirkrooms.
TUES 11th	10.45am	Short Service at War Memorial with involvement of local Primary School followed by opportunity to go for coffee, soup and sandwiches in the Blane Valley Inn.
WED 12th	7.30pm	Heritage Society - Crag Mair 'World War One in the Stirling Area'. In the Village Club
FRI 14th	7.30pm	Remembering WWI Readings & Songs with the Blane Valley Players and friends. Village Club Tickets £5 from the Library BYOB>
SAT 15th	10 - 12	Why Listen? An introduction to listening skills by Maureen Wilson, Listen Well Scotland. In the Kirk Rooms. For more information please contact Sylvia Armstrong - 770893.
SAT 15th	7.30pm	Allander Jazz Band Concert in Edmonstone Hall (light refreshments & cash bar) Tickets £10 from Rbt Taylor: 771079 rb.pataylor@mypostoffice.co.uk (Organised by Strathblane Bowling Club)
SAT 15th	7.30pm	Milngavie Choir 'The Armed Man - a Mass for Peace' in New Kilpatrick Church Bearsden
MON 17th	7.30pm	Guild - May Nicholson on the Preshal Trust in the Kirkrooms
TUES 18th	7.30pm	Book Group in Strathblane Library
TUES 18th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens - Ian Marshall 'Slides on Rome' In the Edmonstone Hall.
FRI 21st	1.15pm	Craft & Story Session for Pre-School and Nursery Children - Autumn stories & crafts in Strathblane Library. Please let a member of Library staff know if you are coming.
FRI 21st	7.30 for 8	Village Club Concert - John McCusker & Mike McGoldrick Tickets £15 from Library.
FRI 21st	7pm	Film Night (Films TBC) in the Kirkrooms.
SAT 22nd	7.30pm	Strathblane Tennis Club's Annual Quiz

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