

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

*The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet*

April 2017 No 51

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## **The Community Development Trust & the Future of our Community** from *Alf Young, SCDT Chair*

### **Interesting Times**

We are leaving the European Union. Opinion remains sharply divided on whether Scotland should leave the UK. And now the Prime Minister has called another snap Westminster election. Then there's the state of the wider world. Let's not go there.

Unsettling times, too, for local communities like ours. More and more people want to live here, in the ancient parish of Strathblane. Our council, Stirling, still manages to improve main roads and upgrade street lighting. But budgets are tight and other public assets, like our school and library, aren't getting any younger.

Strathblane also has a rich legacy of other shared assets, some endowed by past residents. All require ongoing maintenance, some of it daunting. And local people, giving freely of their time and energy, to ensure these venues continue to have real meaning and purpose for us all.

Stirling Council is currently engaged with representatives of a range of local organisations, exploring how best to sustain - even revitalise - what we have. However the vitality of the community is only partially shaped by the public realm. Some of the commercial enterprises serving our village are also struggling.

### **Important Local Assets — Threats and Opportunities**

One of our two pubs, the Blane Valley Inn, is being put on the market by its current owners, brewer Greene King. It will remain open until sold. Given the rate of pub closures across the UK it may not even survive as a going concern. We could simply let the market decide the BVI's fate, but under Community Right to Buy legislation, dating back to 2003, we can intervene, other communities across Scotland already have. The legislation gives us a pre-emptive right to buy land (and buildings on it) and receive a significant contribution to the cost of doing so.

For the past two years I've chaired the board of our local community development trust. Sitting as we do on the John Muir Way we've made significant progress improving the paths network in our village. We aspire to become a Walkers are Welcome community.

As more and more travellers pass our way, we want to be able to offer them hospitality, a place to shop, eat or quench their thirst, even a bed for the night. That will become a bigger challenge if a historic local pub has already shut its doors for the last time. So the Trust I chair is registering its interest in acquiring the BVI under Right to Buy. (See page 3 for more details on how this might work)

### **Why not join the SCDT and come to our AGM on May 22nd**

To turn that interest into acquisition requires active community support. We are not doing this behind anyone's back. Our next AGM is on May 22. I urge more of you become members of the trust, and as many existing members as possible to come along to the Village Club that evening to discuss this and other plans we have to further enrich life in this community. (Membership forms are available in the Library & at the AGM)

### **Nurturing our Blane Valley Community for future Generations**

Over more than three decades Carol and I have raised our family in one of Strathblane's oldest houses, named after one of its largely-forgotten settlements. Old Edenkirk will celebrate its 350th birthday in two years time. We've always regarded our tenure of the old place as a passing custodianship of a bit of our shared history.

If the community that has sprung up all around it since is to continue to flourish, we all need to play our part in making what we pass on to generations yet to come that wee bit better than what it was when we first came to this stunning little valley.

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

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# April Community Council Update *from Chair, Margaret Vass*

**Stirling Council Services** — For the next few meetings we intend to have short presentations from Stirling Council Service managers. This is to hold them to account for the service provided.

This month we had Lynne Watson who manages the **Contact Centre** - The centre operates 24/7. Calls are split evenly between service requests, information requests and requests to speak to individuals. Only service requests (incl. emails) are given reference numbers. Surprisingly, each service is currently allowed to set its own response times to their customers but, by the end of the year all service requests should have a uniform response time. As very few staff come from rural areas we are asked to give very clear descriptions and locations when we email or call in. Community Councillors should identify themselves when reporting issues so that it is clear when there is an escalation.

Next month we will be hearing from the service managers from **Roads and Land Services**. Please let us know of problems you would like us to raise or even better come along and do it yourself.

**Dog Fouling Campaign Posters** — The winners of our anti dog fouling posters were announced: P2 Archie Baxter, P5 Abigail Stevens and P6 Isla Whittet. All received a £10 Amazon voucher and each will see their art work in print over the coming months. Please remember that it is totally unacceptable not to pick up after your dog.

**Dumgoyne Parking** — CC members are still - jointly with Killearn CC - pursuing options for parking to allow walkers to climb Dumgoyne from the distillery. There should be a site meeting held soon

On **Planning** we agreed our response to proposed changes to Planning Legislation that gives more pow-

-ers to communities but no resources to help us. We had no comments on applications for a house at Troughstone Cottage and Ardunan Lodge.

**Buses: we need your help again** — It is important for us to understand where and when you would wish to use public transport. One of the options might be to loose more services but have access to Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) where taxis can be requested to join up with public transport services. If there is sufficient demand we would also consider our own community transport. Please let us know your thoughts.

**Garden work** — at the former Blane field Printworks site is nearly complete at long last. We are continuing to support the residents to achieve a reasonable outcome after their six year nightmare.

**The May SCC meeting is at 7.30pm on TUESDAY 9th in the Village Club** —hear, and question, Stirling Council roads and land services managers

**Copy Date for the May BVB is Tuesday 16th.** Please send Calendar items and news for the period up to late-June to [cc@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)

**The Village Club — enquiries and bookings:**  
check schedule at — [www.villageclub1911.org](http://www.villageclub1911.org)  
email — [strathblanevc@gmail.com](mailto:strathblanevc@gmail.com) or  
Contact — Fiona Murray 01360 771497  
(Office hours only please)

**Edenkiln Surgery**  
We 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)  
For out of hours help contact NHS24 at 202

## 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**

### Blane field 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

Or via our website at [www.strathblanecc.org.uk](http://www.strathblanecc.org.uk) . **Other Information Sources** —

Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; & the **Facebook** Strathblanefield Page  
**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

## Community Empowerment & Community Right to Buy - The Process *from Margaret Vass*

Communities have been given the ability to shape their destinies by government. We need to be ready to take advantage of these powers, and consider what we need to remain a sustainable, vibrant community. We can register an interest in land or buildings — preferably before they are up for sale. That lasts for 5 years and can be renewed. This keeps our options open if opportunities come along. As Alf Young says on page 1 we now have an opportunity with the Blane Valley Inn, although this would be classed as a 'late application'.

You can be assured that the whole community will be involved at every stage and the task will be to develop the asset for the whole community, not simply preserving what we have. We must have a detailed business plan to demonstrate viability.

At the right time your support will be needed in a couple of ways. Firstly by signing a petition which will be cross-referenced with the electoral register. We will need at least 10%, preferably 15%, of those of voting age to support the proposal(s). Secondly we would wish to gauge how many of you would be willing to buy community shares to support any venture.

The final stage of a long process, if terms are agreed by all parties, is a secret postal ballot of the whole community where at that stage we would hope to get your support.

### SCDT — Volunteer(s) Required

The Community Development Trust Board is looking for one or more volunteers to undertake (or share) the administrative tasks of: undertake

two **limited administrative roles** for

- Producing minutes of Board meetings
- managing membership and email lists

For more information contact:

Alf Young at [alfyoung@btinternet.com](mailto:alfyoung@btinternet.com)

### SCDT members — changed your email address?

Please contact [cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk)

### Grow Your Own This Year?

We would like to hear from you. Currently Blane Valley Allotments have plots for anyone wishing to grow their own vegetables, fruit or flowers. To find out more email [linmackinnon@btinternet.com](mailto:linmackinnon@btinternet.com) or phone Linda on 07557 996520.

### Strathblane Tennis Club

**OPEN DAY Saturday April 29th at 2pm**

Leddriegreen Road (Behind Village Club)

Non-members of all ages and abilities welcome to join in some informal play.

#### SPRING COACHING

**Starts for children and adults on Sunday 30th April for 8 weeks.** Class groups and times to be confirmed once we know likely numbers.

For further information contact:

Jane McCallum ([jane@dumgoyne.net](mailto:jane@dumgoyne.net) 01360 771281)

Mark Roberts ([mrob4444@gmail.com](mailto:mrob4444@gmail.com) 07739 144072)

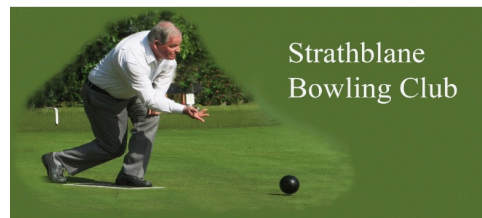
#### 1960's Music Night with

**Al Fleming's Back Beat**

**Saturday May 27th**

Village Club 8pm (music at 9). BYOB

Tickets £10 available from Alastair Balfour (01360



**"Come and Try"**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2 – 4pm  
and all Mondays from 1<sup>st</sup> May  
6.30 – 8pm

All Ladies, Gents and children  
welcome

Come and have a free 'taster' sail at

**Loch Ard Sailing Club**

Kinlochard, by Aberfoyle

on **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
**1.30 - 4.00pm**

- Refreshments
- Games for young people
- Bring a waterproof jacket and trainers

We look forward to seeing you!

[www.lochardsc.org.uk](http://www.lochardsc.org.uk)

[publicity@lochardsc.org.uk](mailto:publicity@lochardsc.org.uk)

### Balfron Barracudas Swimming Club

Training for swimmers of all standards at Balfron Campus on Monday, Thursday and/or Saturday.

**Spaces currently available.**

Contact [info@balfronbarracudas.org.uk](mailto:info@balfronbarracudas.org.uk)

for more details or see Website or Facebook page

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## APRIL

FRI 21st	7.15pm	<b>One World, One Village — An evening</b> in aid of Tearfund, Scottish Refugee Council & Traidcraft with performances by the <b>Campsie Crooners</b> . Entry by donation
SUN 23th	2 - 5pm	<b>Electric Music Session</b> at Village Club. Contact: George Thom- <a href="mailto:gethom@tiscali.co.uk">gethom@tiscali.co.uk</a>
TUES 25th	7pm	<b>Music in the Library</b> — Traditional Music Jam Session in Strathblane Library. Come along and join in - all welcome. S(ee Strathblane Sessions on Facebook)
SAT 29th	2pm	<b>Strathblane Tennis Club — Open Day</b> (see Page 3 for details)
SUN 30th	2 -5pm	<b>Strathblane Tennis Club — Spring Coaching begins</b> (see Page 3 for details)

## MAY

TUES 2nd	7.15pm	<b>Film Group</b> to discuss 'A United Kingdom' in the Library. (£1.50 rental for club members)
MON 8th	6.30pm -	<b>Try Bowls at Strathblane Bowling Club</b> - tonight & any Monday evening until September — (see Flyer for contact details)
TUE 9th	7.30pm	<b>Strathblane Community Council</b> in the Village Club. All welcome
SUN 14th	2 04 pm	<b>Traditional Music Session</b> in the Village Club. All welcome
MON 15th	3.15-4.15 pm	<b>My Wee Journal</b> - Create your own ancient journal with Neil Dickson of SC Archives—a workshop for 8-12 yr olds (10 places only) - tickets (free) in advance from the library
TUES 16th	7.30pm	<b>Library Book Group</b> This month's book: "Mary's the Name' by Ross Sayers
MON 22nd	1.30 - 4	<b>Have a Taster Sail at Loch Ard Sailing Club</b> See Page 3 for details.
MON 22nd	7.30pm	<b>SCDT AGM</b> — all members (including new members) welcome to hear about the Community Development Trusts activities and to debate our community's future..
THURS 25th	10.30pm	<b>Bookbug Week Special Session</b> - Come and have a wee giggle. In the Library
SAT 27th	8pm	<b>Strathblane Tennis Club 1960s Music Night with Al Fleming's Back Beat</b> - See p3
SUN 28th	2 - 5pm	<b>Electric Music Session</b> in the Village Club. All welcome. Contact: George Thom - <a href="mailto:gethom@tiscali.co.uk">gethom@tiscali.co.uk</a>
SUN 21st	1.30-4pm	<b>Push the Boat Out - Try Sailing</b> at <b>Loch Ard Sailing Club</b> — See Page 3 for details

**OFF THE PAGE BOOK FESTIVAL** —Strathblane Library and Drymen Library host "Femmes Fatales" on **Thursday 11th May 7.30 p.m.** at Drymen Church Hall.

**Lin Anderson, Alex Gray and Alanna Knight** will be on hand to chat about their books and the detectives they have created. Tickets £5 (£3 concession and Library Book Group members) are available in the library.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED — Food Train in Stirling** who provide a grocery delivery service for older people who may be frail, disabled or have mobility issues have had an enquiry from someone in Strathblane. They can't deliver here unless they get several local referrals and are therefore **looking for a local person who might become a 'locality volunteer'**. Please contact Gisele Hall at (01786) 450436 or [gisele@thefoodtrain.co.uk](mailto:gisele@thefoodtrain.co.uk)

### Shout out from the

### 1st Strathblane Rainbows!

Our present leader is not continuing after the summer holidays and we are looking for one or two new leaders to come forward so that we can keep on having fun and meet up with our Rainbow friends. We really enjoy our Thursday evenings, playing games, doing crafts and working towards badges. Can you help us?

If yes, please speak to any of our local Girlguiding leaders or contact Fiona Hunter, District Commissioner at 01786 870322 or [fionai-hunter@btinternet.com](mailto:fionai-hunter@btinternet.com)

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)