

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

April 2019 No. 71

Easter at Strathblane Kirk
See the calendar for details of Easter activities at Strathblane Kirk!

Your Stirling. You Decide

This is Stirling's version of participatory budgeting following the Scottish Government's Community Engagement initiative which gives local people a direct say in how a portion of Stirling's budget is spent. This year there is £700,000 to be split between the 7 council wards. That is £100,00 to be spent on infrastructure and the environment. How will this work? The first step is a call for ideas, by 14th April 2019. Anyone living or working in the ward can submit an idea through the website; in person at a community event; or by filling in an ideas form available from any public building or Council office. The second step is a public ballot in which everyone of high school age or above who lives in the ward can take part. This will run between 27th May and 23rd June. More details about the process will be available nearer the time. Then the proposals with the most votes will be taken forward from July. Council Services will work on the winning ideas in each ward. So get your thinking caps on as this will be a major topic at our April Community Council meeting.

Bird Boxes in Strathblane

We were approached by the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine at Glasgow University about a research project studying how urbanisation modifies a classic tri-level interaction between cavity nesting songbirds (blue tits and great tits), their main caterpillar preys and the plants' leaves upon which caterpillars feed. Preliminary work that we have done has shown that urban blue tits have to rely on alternative diets to feed their offspring, and this has severe implications for offspring physiology and survival. The lack of native trees severely hampers the abundance of caterpillars and other insects that tits use to feed their offspring, which then have to rely on alternative, less suitable (and in some cases highly harmful) diets.



The advice about feeding birds is to stop putting food out during the nesting season from April to September and only to use fatballs in the winter. The institute has permission from Stirling to put their nest boxes on public land as, during the nesting season the boxes have to be checked very often and they do not wish to disturb residents for access but, if you are interested in the project, you can monitor your own boxes. I will get the report form from the University and the information you collect can be uploaded to the project website. If you need a nest box please let a member of the Community Council know and the project will provide one for you.

Volunteering Matters:

The Handyperson Service

Volunteering Matters, (formerly CVS, the UK's leading volunteering charity), is looking to expand and build capacity of its Handyperson Service (currently operating in Clackmannanshire and Greater Stirling) to include Balfron and the surrounding area. It is seeking to recruit volunteers to help older people in Balfron and surrounding area with small/minor maintenance jobs in their own homes. This includes tasks such as changing bulbs and smoke alarm batteries, rewiring plugs, putting up shelves, curtains and mirrors, assembling flat pack furniture plus many more. Volunteers do not undertake jobs that should be done by a qualified tradesperson. Being able to have these types of jobs done means our clients feel more confident of remaining independent at home for longer. Volunteers will receive support, training and travel expenses and in return will feel a great deal of satisfaction, helping older people within their own community. Contact Helen Geddes by email Helen.Geddes@volunteeringmatters.org.uk or by phone for an informal chat on **01259 928 088**, if you live in any of the areas mentioned and would be interested in becoming a Volunteer Handyperson. You can also let a member of the Community Council know if you are interested in using this service again, and we can help.



The article in last month's BVB resulted in one volunteer coming forward to be co-opted but there are still three vacancies. Please think about it carefully and if you have the time come along to the next meeting and let us know.

Have you thought about Sponsoring an issue of the Bulletin? Businesses & Community Groups can include an advertising flyer **free of charge** when sponsoring an issue, which goes to every household.

For more details email: contact@strathblanec.org.uk

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by The Community Council

Strathblane Community Council February Update

from Chair Marian Lever

This brief report will highlight the major issues discussed at our recent meeting. Some of these are followed up elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Police Report:

We were able to thank the police for their intervention with a landowner as the footpath between Ballewan Crescent and the Care Home has been cut back. Again the police reported a few issues such as minor damage to a shed within the primary school and various incidents of possessing cannabis were reported. Extra attention has been given to the school in the last few weeks and there have been no issues.

If anyone sees suspicious activity we are asked to report it as these issues are always followed up. There have been no thefts reported since the last meeting. Road checks have continued to be carried out in the village to deter travelling criminals. Hand held radar has been continuing in order to detect and deter speeding drivers. Two road accidents were reported but no injuries were sustained as a result of these accidents.

Co-op:

We heard a report about the Co-op's activities in the village such as the Veg Power initiative called Eat Them to Defeat Them. The Co-op is partnering this initiative to tackle childhood obesity. We also heard about Keep Britain Tidy which is launching the Great British Spring Clean from March 22nd till April 23rd. The Co-op is going to provide kits and promotional material. We heard about the Eden Project initiative, The Big Lunch. Last year the Co-op supported planting in the village tubs and AH indicated that there would be support again this year. The Co-op is buying a football for Blanefield Thistle. Finally, after running a promotion for Cuppa Time in the shop a new volunteer has been enlisted.

The Participation Request:

This again resulted in a lively discussion after we reported on our last meeting of the group. After discussion we were persuaded to support the scheme as suggested by the Council's expert staff but we know that this is not the end of discussions. The scheme will be implemented soon. In fact had we not asked for a meeting at the behest of residents at the last meeting the work would have already been completed. Our discussion focussed on the problem of the

roundabout on the A81 and Campsie Road which is the main crossing point for children from Braidgate. A pedestrian crossing was suggested and Rob Davies offered to raise this with the Council.

Local Health Initiative:

The meeting with various representatives of health providers and related support staff will be held in April in the Village Club. More at a future Community Council Meeting.

Neighbourhoods of Care Meeting

At the last meeting of this group there had been concern expressed about Strathendrick House. We were reassured to hear that its future was not under threat. Stirling Council had allocated £300,000 for maintenance over the next two years and it would continue to offer respite care. It is not practical to offer specialist medical care there so discharge from Larbert will be at the Bellfield Centre. The development of the facility will be a standing item on the agenda and community representatives will be fully involved in decisions. We also received an update on the main issues raised at the meeting held in the McClintock Hall in January and how these aligned with local priorities. This will inform the development of the Strategic Plan for the next three years.

Volunteering Matters told the meeting about The Handyperson Service they have set up across Clackmannanshire and Stirling. Interest was expressed about trying to set up a project in this area.

Elected Member's report

Robert Davies told us about the new budget and its effect on both Council Tax and Council House rents, both of which will rise. He also reported on the actions Councillor Lambie was undertaking on our behalf, review of Housing in the Countryside planning policies that will go out for consultation later in the year, and that in preparation for the introduction of 1140 hours a year free nursery care for children between the ages of 3 and 5 from August 2021, there is a proposal to close the nursery at Croftamie and build a new one at Drymen where most of the children come from.

All in all it was another busy meeting.

The copy date for the BVB next month will be Friday 12th April.

Get in Touch

Email the SCC at contact@strathblanecc.org.uk or via the website www.strathblanecc.org.uk

Your Community Councillors

Julie Hutchison 770791 Marian Lever 07580 539 492 Philip Graves 07826 424 442

Grace Edmonds 770800 Mandy Watson 07758 100 152 John Gray 771031

Evelyn Macdougall 770757

Additional Sources - Community Website: www.strathblane.online
Library, Notice boards, local press, Strathblane Facebook Page

STIRLING COUNCIL

Councillors' Surgeries are usually at 7pm on SCC meeting nights in the Village Club.

Report Faults at info@stirling.gov.uk or 0845 277 7000

Updates at www.stirling.gov.uk

Emergency Numbers

Ambulance - 999 Fire - 999 NHS 24 - 111 Police - 999 (police non emergency - 101)

Strathblane Community Development Trust

Keeping you up to date - scdt@strathblane.online

1. We have been successful in our grant application for the feasibility study for the Link path from the Gary Wright Way to Station Road.
2. We still need local organisations and local businesses to update their details on the NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE www.strathblane.online using the appropriate button.

Please remember we are a membership organisation. You need us! We deliver projects with grant funding to enhance the village. We can't exist without your funding. Please join if you aren't already a member (www.strathblane.online) it costs a minimum of £5 per year. Members who haven't set up their Standing Order please do so. It costs just under one thousand pounds to keep SCDT running. Donations are welcome!

I.T. & ME

I.T. & ME drop in sessions take place in Stirling Council Libraries to help solve basic IT problems and teach new digital skills. It is completely free to take part and you can learn at your own pace.

For your local I.T. & ME session please contact Strathblane Library directly for dates on **01360 770737**.

To find out more about I.T. & ME sessions with Stirling Council Libraries please ask at your local library or contact: Heather Walsh, Digital Volunteer Coordinator, email: walshh@stirling.gov.uk or tel: **01786 237542**.

Helping Our Elders

Tax Help for Older People

We would like to draw your attention to a service available in our area for those on lower incomes and requiring independent personal tax advice, and who cannot afford professional tax advice. The service is offered through the charity Tax Help for Older People and is generally marketed through Age UK or Citizens Advice Bureaux. If visiting one of their centres is inconvenient, home visits can be arranged.

Further information is available on the website www.taxvol.org.uk or through the helpline **01308 488 066**. The helpline should be able to answer simple questions and arrange an appointment with an advisor if further help is needed. Leaflets are in the Strathblane library, giving a brief description of the types of issues that might arise with the HMRC and also the eligibility criteria. We are lucky to have one of the 450 or so expert volunteers residing in the SCC area.

Power of Attorney - Home Visits for Legal Work

As you know we recommend that everyone sets up Power of Attorney. It is a much simpler process if you are still able to decide this for yourself as it is much more difficult if family members have to do it when you are unable to do it for yourself.

Solicitors for Older People, in partnership with Age Scotland, now offer a home visit service in this area. They are also happy for you to have a friend or relative present for support. There is no extra charge for this and they will assess you for legal aid and if you qualify they will get it for you.

**DUST OFF YOUR
DANCING SHOES!**

**FUN HUT'S 50's
ROCK n' ROLL
DANCE PARTY!!!**



*Dancers, snacks
cocktails, cash bar &
raffle*

**SATURDAY 11TH
MAY, 8.00 PM**

Get tickets at the
Library or Fun Hut

April SCC Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 1st April at 7.30pm** in the Village Club. All Welcome. Please come along and give us your views.

Edenkiln Surgery

We can be contacted on

01360 770340

For a range of
healthcare

information go to
the practice website at:
edenkilnsurgery.com

For out of hours call
NHS24 on 111

Mugdock Matters

Those taking the back "Gateway" to Strathblane in recent weeks can hardly have failed to notice the ever-expanding, dazzling display of daffodils lining the verges of the hamlet of Mugdock. These are the fruits of many years of voluntary effort from a small band of residents, co-ordinated by the Mugdock Association. Perhaps not always recognised by locals, in Mugdock or Strathblane, is that Mugdock is a part of the Strathblane Community Council patch. The Mugdock Association therefore has no hesitation in welcoming anyone from the SCC area to join us on any of our volunteering events. *The next is the first of our twice a year litter pick-ups around Mugdock and the surrounding roads. This will be held on Tuesday April 16th, meeting at the grass triangle at 6.30pm. An hour's stroll around the lanes will be followed by some light refreshments. A further litter pickup will take place in September, followed by the annual bulb-planting Sunday afternoon in late October. Volunteers and donations of bulbs will be most welcome! For further information on Mugdock events, contact Philip Graves, community councillor in Mugdock. *see also SCC Meeting minutes for Co-op Litter Initiative

Enquiries and Bookings

Edmonstone Hall

Contact David McLean on **01360 770 919**
OR mclean728@btinternet.com

The Village Club

Check schedule at www.villageclub1911.org
email strathblanevc@gmail.com

International Piano Day!

To celebrate International Piano Day on Friday 29th March, Strathblane Library will host the community keyboard between 11am-4pm. Drop in to play or listen, all ages and levels - from Chopsticks to Chopin - welcome. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2019

Saturday 23rd	10.15 - 11.45am	'Fun with Fabrics @ Strathblane Library'. Ages 9-11. Contact to book. £1
Sunday 24th	1.30 - 5pm	Electric Jam Sessions. All Welcome. Contact George - gethom@me.com
Tuesday 26th	7 - 9pm	Traditional music session in the Library. Contact Sheila on 770 824
Thursday 28th	10.30am - 11am	'Bookbug' Stories and rhymes for wee ones in the Library - just drop in
Thursday 28th	10am - 12 noon	Citizen's Advice Bureau Drop In: Help and advice from CAB - just drop in
Thursday 28th	3.15 - 4.45pm	'Fun with Textiles @ Strathblane Library'. Ages 9-11. Contact to book. £1
Friday 29th	11am - 4pm	International Piano Day - Community Keyboard. Drop in. All ages.
Saturday 30th	1 - 3pm	Strathblane Library Code Club. Ages 8+. Places limited. Contact to book

April 2019

Tuesday 2nd	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle. All needleworkers welcome
Sunday 14th	2-4pm	Acoustic Jam Session. All Welcome. Contact George - gethom@me.com
Tuesday 16th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle. All needleworkers welcome
Tuesday 16th	7.30pm	Strathblane Library Book Club. New members welcome. Contact to book
Thursday 25th	10.30 - 11am	'Bookbug' Stories and rhymes for wee ones in the Library - just drop in
Thursday 25th	3.15 - 4.45pm	'Fun with Fabrics @ Strathblane Library'. Ages 9-11. Contact to book. £1
Saturday 27th	1 - 3pm	Strathblane Library Code Club. Ages 8+. Places limited. Contact to book
Sunday 28th	1.30 - 5pm	Electric Jam Sessions. All Welcome. Contact George - gethom@me.com
Tuesday 30th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle. All needleworkers welcome
Tuesday 30th	7-9pm	Traditional music session in the Library. Contact Sheila on 770 824

Library Contact - 01360 770 737

EASTER AT STRATHBLANE KIRK

Saturday 30th March	11am	Lenten Walk
Saturday 13th April	11am	Lenten Walk
Palm Sunday 14th April	11am	Morning Worship, Church
Palm Sunday 14th April	6.30pm	Evening Worship, Kirk Rooms
Monday 15th April	1pm	Holy Week half hour service, Church
Tuesday 16th April	1pm	Holy Week half hour service, Church
Wednesday 17th April	1pm	Holy Week half hour service, Church
Thursday 18th April	2pm	Cuppa Time Easter Special, Kirk Rooms
Thursday 18th April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday, Joint Service with Killearn Kirk (Killearn)
Good Friday 19th April	7.30pm	Joint Service with Killearn Kirk (Strathblane)
Saturday 20th April	10am	Holy Week Service, Church
Easter Sunday 21st April	8am	Walk to Dunglass for Early Morning Service (meet in church car park)
Easter Sunday 21st April	9.30am	Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt, Kirk Rooms
Easter Sunday 21st April	11am	Easter Morning Family Service, Church
Easter Sunday 21st April	6pm	Evening Service, Kirk Rooms