

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

October 2019 No. 76

## Amazing News!

To make you smile perchance to read, to watch, to knit, to natter to play and so, so much more!

Strathblane Community Development Trust (SCDT) held our AGM on Monday 30th September. We said it was going to be **exciting** unlike many AGMs. **It was.**

We announced that the SCDT Board had just agreed a minute of agreement to accept a gift to the Community of **half a million pounds** towards building a new community-owned library, to replace our much-loved but rapidly ageing facility. The money will be invested in the short term and interest earned will help with SCDT running costs.

Angus Graham has gifted the money with the sole condition that the library is called the Thomas Graham Library. Thomas Graham FRS, FRSE 1805-1869 is Angus' great, great uncle and a very famous chemist who lived at Ballewan. His statue is in George Square. He did pioneering work in dialysis and the diffusion of gases - Graham's Laws. He was the last non political Master of the Mint and has a building named after him at Strathclyde University.

This huge donation from Mr Graham supports SCDT's decision to seek funding for a new library, following Stirling Council's apparent move to shift funds previously allocated for a new library away to match fund its big Stirling City Region Deal project. Work starts now to raise funding for a feasibility and planning study into how we can make a new library a reality. This will include looking at suitable sites close to the school, and investigating whether other facilities such as a business hub could be incorporated into the final building. We will also be talking to Stirling Council about how a community-owned library can be operated and its running costs funded. We will, of course, be consulting the community too.

Mr Graham's donation is the best-possible start for this important project – but we still need to raise substantial further funding to make a new library a reality. If you are interested in supporting this project, please contact us [scdt@strathblane.online](mailto:scdt@strathblane.online)

SCDT is a membership organisation working to deliver better facilities for your community. Please join for a minimum annual payment of £5. We hope that you will sign up to pay more each year by standing order. Details are on the village website [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online)

The AGM also agreed our priority activities in addition to the library project. We have commissioned an independent housing needs survey from Rural Housing Scotland with funding from Stirling Council so that the community knows the type of housing needed for the future and we can have our own local place plan.

### FITNESS FIX

EST. 2017

**Sports and Remedial Massage**  
Bex Francis PgD BSc (Hons) MFHT

Local clinic and Mobile home treatments available!

Call Bex today on: 07913 403988 or email: [BexFitFix@gmail.com](mailto:BexFitFix@gmail.com)

Treatments offered...

- ✔ Soft Tissue Therapy and Remedial Massage
- ✔ Sports Massage
- ✔ Hot Stones Massage
- ✔ Acupuncture
- ✔ Spinal Manipulation
- ✔ Myofascial Cupping
- ✔ Remedial Exercise

£5 off with this advert for the whole of November bookings (new and existing clients)



Family Portraits by Our Day Photos

Homebaking stall, Woolie Mammoth  
The Bodyshop At Home, Gloria Edis knits  
G-LO homemade soy candles, Pat Davy Jeweller  
Sally Walkinshaw Ceramics, Shona Currie Florist  
Just a Sec Photography (Landscapes)

12-4pm Saturday 2nd November  
Strathblane Village Hall

Call Kate on 07799 000470 to book your slot with Our Day Photos



Come to the Village's First HOUSING FAIR

Saturday 26th October drop in between 12-4pm at the Village Club  
Launch of Village Housing Survey

Hear from experts about ways to tackle our community's housing needs  
Architects will explain exciting new energy-efficient home designs

Where will you be living in 5-10 years' time?

See what might be possible

'Design Your Dream Home' Competition for children

Visit [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online) and village FB page for details

The BVB is produced by the  
Strathblane Community Council

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](mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk)

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by Strathblane Community Council

# Strathblane Community Council February Update

from Chair Marian Lever

## October meeting

We had neither a police presence nor an elected member to report to us, nor did we receive a police report and this will be followed up, especially as there have been serious incidents requiring police attendance both in the local GPs' surgery and outside the school. However this meant that we had plenty of time to discuss the issue of flooding.

We were lucky that Maria Lucey, Bridges, Floods and Drains Co-ordinator at SC was able to attend and take part in the discussions. We were not able to hear from Scottish Water at this meeting but we have been promised attendance at our November meeting and a number of issues were raised for them to tackle when they come. We heard from one resident who has been raising issues about the burn since 2017. She has recently raised a petition to SC asking them to clarify ownership of the lands on either side of the burn and to encourage the Netherblane factors to ensure that debris does not leave their land and block the burn. We also heard about a group of local residents who have been meeting with representatives of SC to explore various issues about the flooding. This has resulted in some action (detailed in the minutes) and a good working relationship has developed. In the light of this the CC decided not to pursue a formal petition at present.

We then heard about the SCDT plans for the coming year which includes a number of projects (see the SCDT report elsewhere) which the CC voted to support. We are particularly delighted that they are organising a Housing Survey which will inform our actions on planning issues in the future. Please make sure that you take part. We were also delighted to hear of the generous offer to support the rebuilding of the library (again reported elsewhere in the BVB). We will watch this development with interest and encourage local residents to get behind the fundraising efforts that will be needed to bring this project to fruition.

At the Rural Stirling meeting we learned that the Parking Strategy discussion are not even scheduled to start in this area until December 2020 but that there are currently no plans to levy parking charges in the rural communities.

Neighbourhoods of Care discussed Respite Care in its broadest sense from Short breaks of 2/3 hours to bed based care. We were told that the rural area does not generate sufficient demand to use all the beds at Strathendrick and that despite the restrictions that having residents cause, as their needs must come first, the centre was trying to find other ways to help such as the monthly Dementia Café. We will keep you posted.

Ambulance Services in the area are still raising issues and Bruce Crawford will be approached to see what else the village can do to support our needs, especially out of hours. We will try to get a representative of the Service to attend our next meeting. See you there?

## Scambusters...

Our local member of parliament, Stephen Kerr, is organising a drop-in 'Scambusters' event at the Raploch Community Campus, Drip Road, Stirling FK8 1RD on Friday 1 November from 10.am to 3.pm

There will be a variety of stalls from Police Scotland, Trading Standards, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Adult Social Services, Royal Mail, Royal Bank of Scotland and the Solicitors for Older People Scotland.

The Day will provide information on frauds and scams as well as advice on a wide range of services available to support people. In addition there will be two periods of short presentations in adjoining rooms to present specific information and to host Q&A sessions.

The first session will be from 11am-12noon and they will repeat in the afternoon 1.30 – 2.30pm.

It will help the planners of the event if people could let Stephen's constituency office if they are attending.

It is: Constituency Office:  
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Borestone Crescent,  
Stirling , FK7 9BQ

Tel: 01786 475034.

## Get in Touch

Email the SCC at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk) or via the website [www.strathblanecc.org.uk](http://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

Kate Ramsden 07801 372 588 Evelyn Macdougall 770757

**Additional Sources** - Community Website: [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online)  
Librabry, Notice boards, local press, Strathblanefield 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](mailto:info@stirling.gov.uk)  
or 0845 277 7000

**Updates** at [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk)

## Where will you be living in 5-10 years?

Still in the village, perhaps in your present home? Or, if your family is young, you'll have moved into a rented house. And if you're at the other end of the housing spectrum, you might have downsized into a smaller retirement home.

There's only one problem: we don't have much, if any, of these types of housing in our village. As most residents know, it's not easy to find the right type of home in Strathblane and Blanefield, no matter your circumstances. Particular shortages are:

Affordable homes, such as flats, apartments or cottage-style bungalows, for rent or to-buy

Retirement houses, 2-3-bedrooms and all on one level, to buy

Self-build housing plots in good locations within the village

Strathblane Community Development Trust, working in partnership with Strathblane Community Council and Stirling Council, will start tackling this long-term problem by drawing up a 10-year Local Place Plan. This will include specific proposals for new housing to meet the needs of existing residents in the long-term future. We have commissioned Rural Housing Scotland, a specialist charity that helps rural communities to tackle their housing problems, to profile your long-term needs using an online SurveyMonkey questionnaire. The online survey will go live via the village website [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online) and the Strathblane Facebook page.

A paper version of the survey is included in this issue of the Bulletin – you are welcome to complete it and hand it in to the Library in Strathblane or Vishnu's ShopSmart store in Blanefield. Final completion date is November 30.

To hear more about the survey, please come along to the village's first Housing Fair on Saturday October 26 from 12-4pm in the Village Club. You'll hear expert speakers outline the many options now available for communities like ours to tackle their housing challenges. There will be an exhibition of different types of modern housing that communities like ours are increasingly developing to meet the needs of their residents, and the various forms of ownership and renting that are now available. All residents are invited to attend this free event, to help inform them of what could be possible for our village and to meet their own needs in the future.

You can find further information about modern community housing at Rural Housing Scotland's website – [www.ruralhousingscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralhousingscotland.co.uk)

## Christmas Tree Light Switch On

This year's Annual Village celebration will take place on Tuesday 10th December 2019.

The Christmas tree lights switch on will start at 7.15pm and we will be serving the usual refreshments.

We are alsodelighted to confirm that we will be joined by the Dumbarton Wind Ensemble so we are looking forward to a great evening.

There will be donations at the door to help to pay for the evening. So please put the date in your diary and come along and join us on the night.

### Race Night 2019



**Saturday 9th November 7:30pm**

**Edmonstone Hall - BYOB**

Tickets £6 & Horses £5 each from BTFC committee and SOSOC staff team

Anyone who wishes to sponsor a race, please contact BTFC or SOSOC



## Edenkiln Surgery

We can be contacted on 01360 770340

For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website at:

[edenkilnsurgery.com](http://edenkilnsurgery.com)

For out of hours call NHS24 on 111

## Handyperson Volunteers Wanted

Volunteering Matters has launched its Handyperson service in Balfron. This service provides volunteers who will visit clients' homes to carry out small tasks such as changing light bulbs, hanging curtains or building small pieces of flat pack furniture. This service is free of charge.

It is intended to extend the service to Strathblane but this will not be possible until they have more volunteers to cover our area.

Volunteers are covered by insurance from Volunteering Matters and require to have full disclosure checks.

If you are able to change a bulb or wire a plug and have a few spare hours to donate, please contact Volunteering Matters on 01259 928 088

## Enquiries and Bookings

**Edmonstone Hall**

Contact David McLean on **01360 770 919**  
OR [mclean728@btinternet.com](mailto:mclean728@btinternet.com)

**The Village Club**

Check schedule at [www.villageclub1911.org](http://www.villageclub1911.org)  
email [strathblanevc@gmail.com](mailto:strathblanevc@gmail.com)

### Emergency Numbers

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

The village has two defibrillators, one at the Edmonstone Hall, and one at the Co-op which are maintained by Trossachs Search and Rescue



## New Bench!

The new seat has been installed on the bike path to Lennoxtown.

The Community Council would like to thank Counsellor Rob Davies for his help in obtaining this seat.

We hope that local residents enjoy it.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### October 2019

Thursday 24th	10am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 24th	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Saturday 26th	10.15 - 11.45am	Fun with Fabrics. Strathblane Library. Ages 9-11. Contact to book. £1
Monday 28th		Guild in Kirk Rooms - Keeping Healthy with Morag Thow
Tuesday 29th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Tuesday 29th	7 - 9pm	Traditional Music Session in the Library. Contact Sheila on 770824
Wednesday 30th	7pm	Heritage Society in the Village Club. Plaid Song presents "Enlist Bonnie Lad"
Thursday 31st	10.30 - 11am	Spookbug @ Strathblane Library- Pumpkin Themed songs & rhymes. Drop in.
Thursday 31st	3.15 - 4.45pm	Fun with Fabrics. Strathblane Library. Ages 9-11. Contact to book. £1

### November 2019

Friday 1st	1.15 - 2pm	Strathblane Library Craft & Storytime for pre schoolers
Saturday 2nd	10.30 - 11.45am	Strathblane Library Lego Club - Drop in, ages 8-11
Saturday 2nd		Fellowship group Christmas Card Sale
Monday 4th		Guild Lunch at Buchanan Castle Golf Club
Tuesday 5th	7.20pm	Strathblane Library Film Club - 'Leave No Trace'. New members welcome.
Thursday 7th	10am-12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 7th	10am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library
Saturday 9th	1 - 3pm	Strathblane Library Code Club for ages 8-11, just drop in.
Monday 11th		Guild in Kirk Rooms - Musical evening with Fine Fettle
Thursday 12th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Wednesday 13th	7.15pm	Scout Hall - AGM in an hour!
Thursday 14th	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Tuesday 19th	7pm	Strathblane Library Book Group - Alex Gray special event. Contact for info
Thursday 21st	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 21st	10am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library
Monday 25th		Guild in Kirk Rooms - Botanic Gardens - Louise Bustard
Tuesday 26th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Thursday 28th	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 28th	10.30 - 11am	Strathblane Library bookbug. Songs & rhymes. Just Drop In