

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

November 2019 No. 77

Marian Lever



Marian was a gentle, caring but determined lady with a considerable intellect and a passion for education in all its forms. Family always came first for Marion and it would be fair to say that she never really recovered following the death of her beloved Bill nearly 4 years ago. Her much loved children and grandchildren helped to fill the void as did her work with the Community Council.

Marian moved to the village in 1972 and brought up her family here. She was involved in many organisations at that time and many will remember her as Tufty lady helping children learn how to cross the road. Watching tennis was an obsession, especially seeing Andy Murray triumph and of course there was the Davis Cup. She joined the Community Council in March 2010 and was an active member, finding her niche when she took the lead for health and well-being.

Marian organised the first heart start course held in the school and was key to having our first defibrillator installed at the Edmonstone Hall on the 25th November 2013 with the assistance of Trossachs Search and Rescue and a donation from the Hodgkinson family.

Marian's voice was heard loud and clear as she strove for improved care and support services for the SW Rural Stirling Area. She was incensed to hear that the Strathendrick Home at Balfron was to be closed with no local consultation, to help fund centralised care in Stirling, and spearheaded the successful campaign to keep it open. Marian always preferred working in partnership rather than opposition and attended many meetings to understand the bureaucracy of health and social care, and was a keen advocate of the new "neighbourhoods of care" approach to delivering support to enable people to remain at home. Recently however she had become very suspicious of what was going on around Strathendrick and was about to get back into campaign mode to ensure that this area is well served without the need to travel long distances.

Marian was also passionate about our residents being able to choose where to go for health care: Glasgow or Forth Valley. Four years ago our right to choose was confirmed by the then health minister. More recently that assurance started to slip with local residents being given no choice. Determined to fix this, Marion helped convene a meeting with the two health boards and the ambulance service, and our choice was confirmed yet again. Sadly this is unfinished business, with the Ambulance service due to speak at the December Community Council meeting.

Marian's tenure as Chair of Strathblane Community Council was far too short. She will be remembered for giving encouragement and support to her colleagues, her patience when the clock was ticking at a lengthy meeting, but above all for her commitment to this community. She will be greatly missed but her work will continue.

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@strathblanecc.org.uk

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by Jane Meek

Housing Fair



The photo above shows Margaret Smith and Rosemary Morris with architect Neil Alexander.

SCDT held a successful Housing Fair at the Village Club last month, in association with Rural Housing Scotland, Stirling Council, Rural Stirling Housing Association and architects Austin-Smith:Lord. The objective was to launch the village's Housing Needs Survey, presently being carried out by Rural Housing Scotland on behalf of SCDT. All residents are invited to complete the survey, copies of which were circulated in last month's BVB and is available at the SCDT website www.strathblane.online until the end of November.

The survey will enable SCDT, working with Strathblane Community Council and Stirling Council, to develop a 10-year Housing Action Plan to deliver the new homes that our community needs.

The Housing Fair featured information stands that provided detail about successful housing developments in other Stirlingshire communities with similar needs to Strathblane and Blanefield – particularly for affordable homes to rent or buy for those who have yet to set foot on the housing ladder. The other need that SCDT anticipates will emerge from the survey is for downsizing accommodation for our more elderly residents, perhaps included supported living space.

Rural Stirling Housing Association chief executive Donna Birrell, Rural Housing Scotland's director Derek Logie and architects Andrew McCafferty and Neil Alexander were on hand to answer residents' questions.

"We were delighted to see so many people attend the Fair," said SCDT chair Margaret Vass. "It's clear that a lot of our residents are thinking hard about their future housing needs. This is a community that lacks a proper mix of housing types for its people, and we hope the Survey will provide a clear sense of direction for us as we look to start work on a major Housing Action Plan. So if you haven't filled in the survey PLEASE DO SO"

Progress on The Library Project

The photo below shows Angus Graham handing a cheque for his £500,000 donation to SCDT chair Margaret Vass.



The funds are now safely invested with Edinburgh fund managers McInroy and Wood, until they are needed to help pay for the construction of a new community library.

Since the announcement of Mr Graham's wonderful donation, SCDT has met with Stirling Council to discuss a partnership for the development of a vision and a plan for the new library. A working party of council officials and SCDT directors is to be formed to manage the project, which we hope will start within two years once all the approvals are in place.

SCDT is also working with its architects, Glasgow-based firm Austin-Smith:Lord, on a feasibility study for the specification, design and location of the building. This study will investigate potential demand within our village for a business hub facility which would provide accommodation, meeting and support services for people presently running their own enterprises from home: if there is sufficient demand and such a hub would be financially viable, it could be added to the library building to create more of a community complex serving a number of local needs. Full community consultation will be carried out before any plans are finalised.

Further details of this important project will be included in future Bulletins.

Get in Touch

Email the SCC at contact@strathblanec.org.uk or via the website www.strathblanec.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
Libraby, 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 or 0845 277 7000

Updates at www.stirling.gov.uk



Local Spanish Lessons



Please contact Nicola on: 07427122566

Find me on Facebook: Blane Valley Spanish Classes

Stuck for ideas for Christmas presents ...
what about something fun, useful and a bit different ...
Spanish Classes available to suit all ages and abilities.
Please contact me for course dates and pricing.

Kids After School Spanish Club - A fun and engaging way for primary school aged children to learn Spanish in a relaxed environment. Learning through activities, play, songs, games, stories and fun!

Adult Evening Group Courses - Current beginners course running in Killlearn Village Hall

Adult Daytime Child Friendly Classes - Bring along the little ones while you do something for you!

Private Lessons - available on request, can follow structured lesson plans to suit your level or we can concentrate mostly on conversational Spanish.

Primary and Secondary School Tutoring - also available.

Toddlers group classes - incorporating fun and games in Spanish.

Baby/Toddler and Me (mums, dads, grandparents, carers all welcome) - this class benefits both the child and the adult, providing an environment in which you could both learn together.

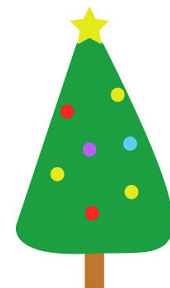
Thank You!

Once again this year local businesses are helping to bring Festive Cheer to the village.

Firstly we have to thank Mark Gibson of Edenmill for kindly donating one of his lovely Christmas trees which will take pride of place in front of the Village Club.
His generosity is much appreciated.

Secondly we have to thank the co-op for donating the mince pies which will contribute to the festive atmosphere during the switch on of the Christmas Tree lights.

CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON!!!



The switch on of the Christmas Tree lights will take place on

Tuesday 10th December at 7.15pm at the Village Club.

Mince pies and mulled wine and Christmas music from the Dunbartonshire Wind Ensemble.

We hope you will all come and join us.

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

A NEW YEAR - A NEW EXERCISE CLASS!

Get fit & keep fit in 2020 with 'Circuit Training' at Edmonstone Hall on **Wednesdays (6.30-7.30pm) & Thursdays (6-7pm), starting January 8th & 9th.**

The class costs £5 & is for all ages, gender & abilities. Circuits is a popular form of exercise as participants go at their own pace & exercises are easily adapted to suit your needs & goals.

For further information please call 07507500996.

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meets every Wednesday at 12.00 in the Edmonstone Hall.

A two course lunch, plus tea or coffee is provided at a cost of £2.30
Everybody is welcome.



Ewan Bain
TREE SERVICES

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Email: ewanbain76@gmail.com

TREE SURGERY | LANDSCAPE SERVICES | LOG SUPPLY

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

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

**'ACTION ON HEARING LOSS'
AT STRATHBLANE LIBRARY,
THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 5-7pm**

**Come and meet Hannah from Action on
Hearing Loss.**

**Free hearing screening available – just
drop in.**

**You can also find out more about the 'Hear
to Inform and Connect' project which aims
to offer support and information to older
people about living with hearing loss**

Apology

Eagle eyed readers will have noticed that the picture of the bench on the bike path to Lennoxton in our October issue is in fact a bench in East Dunbartonshire. Stirling Council has not yet installed the promised bench. We will continue to pursue this and apologise for the confusion.



In January 2017 Andy Orr and Ann McKellar stood down after many years of dealing with all the duties of administration of the Edmonstone Hall.

To avoid closure an emergency meeting was held and a new committee was formed. Improvements to the appearance of the property have been carried out and with the financial help from Stirling Council the ageing gas boiler was replaced with a new fuel efficient model.

Zoe Wight developed a web site and logo to help promote the Halls. She has since moved to another community.

Recently a collection box has been fixed to the front of the Hall and donations are welcome from those using parking spaces but not using the Hall. Thanks go to those who have donated as every penny helps to balance the books.

Sadly, over time, the committee has dwindled to three and due to pressure of work all the day to day administrative and manual tasks fall on one person. This does not bode well for the future.

The position of Treasurer and the position of Booking Secretary are essential to the continued operation of the Hall. The work is not onerous when distributed across a committee.

A minimum of five active members is needed to secure the future operation of the Edmonstone Hall supported by two representatives of the users both of which are in place.

Details for enquiries are included at the foot of page three.

Thank you in anticipation of your interest.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2019

Thursday 21st	10am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library (TBC)
Thursday 21st	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Monday 25th		Women's Guild Botanic Gardens: Louise Bustard
Tuesday 26th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Tuesday 26th	7 - 9pm	Traditional Music Session in the Library. Contact Sheila on 770824
Thursday 28th	10am - 12noon	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 28th	10.30 - 11am	Bookbug @ Strathblane Library- Pumpkin Themed songs & rhymes. Drop in.

December 2019

Wednesday 4th	12 noon	Lunch Club. Edmonstone Hall. Every Wednesday
Thursday 5th	10am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 5th	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 5th	5-7pm	'Action on Hearing Loss' @ theLibrary. Free hearing screening and info. Drop in
Monday 9th		Women's Guild Christmas celebration
Tuesday 10th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Thursday 12th	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 12th	3.15 - 4.45pm	Fun with Fabrics @ the Library. Ages 8-11. £1 per session. Contact to book
Saturday 14th	10.15 - 11.45am	Fun with Fabrics @ the Library. Ages 8-11. £1 per session. Contact to book
Tuesday 17th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Thursday 19th	10.30 - 11am	Sparkly Christmas Bookbug @ the Library. Festive songs & Rhymes.

Library Contact - 01360 770 737

Christmas Concert

Join the award winning Dunbartonshire Concert Band for a fantastic evening of festive music, conducted by Robert Baxter.

Friday 20th December 2019, 7.30pm Cairns Church, Buchanan Street, Milngavie.

Tickets £10 (under 12s free). Including refreshments and mince pies.

Raffle with a chance to win one of our famous hampers!