

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

January 2020 No. 78

## Station Road Link Path Due in the Spring

In 2014 the SCDT Path Development Group set out to develop a multi-user off-road route joining the Strathblane and the Blanefield ends of our community. A major part of that was achieved in 2016 with the upgrading of the path from Station Road to the entrance to the newly created allotments. That path has been very well used but it left walkers, wheelers and cyclists from Blanefield to navigate the inadequate and, at times dangerous, track along the edge of Station Road to reach the start of the new path.

We are now pleased to say that we are finally in a position to bypass this section by creating a new 'Link Path' through the area of unmaintained woodland starting at the bridge on Station Road to join the new path about 30 metres in from the road. (see plan) The task has not been straightforward. We have gained permission from the landowner, Duntreath Estates and planning permission from Stirling Council for 'change of use'; engaged our long-term project manager, Richard East of City Design Coop to update the feasibility study originally done in 2014 and updated the Habitat Survey which was done at that time. There has been much interchange between ourselves, Stirling Council Roads and Sustrans on the vital details of the interface between the new path and Station Road at the bridge and we now have an agreed plan. This preparatory and design work was funded by Sustrans Community Links programme.



Funding for the construction phase, which will cost in the region of £80,000 has been gained from Sustrans Places for Everyone programme with important match funding from Clackmannan and Stirling Environmental Trust (CSET) and the Forbes Brown Memorial Trust together with the vital contribution of the narrowing of the bridge and the widening of the path over it by Stirling Council.

We will minimise tree removal, planting trees and landscaping work along the edges of the path. Our main funder, Sustrans, requires that a multi-user path must have a 'bound surface (tarmac) but we plan to add a resin based covering (in a colour more suited to our rural location) to avoid any danger of slippage.

The construction work was put out to tender in December. We have received three good tenders which come within our budget and expect to award the contract this month. The aim is to complete the path together with the installation of signage and some path furniture by April.

At the same time the Group has gained funding from the Coop Community Fund and CSET for the creation and erection of a large Heritage Information Board alongside the Railway Path near the entrance to the new link path. Much of the work will be undertaken by community members led by Keith Vass (erection of boards) and Anne Balfour (Heritage Information Content). Again the target date for completion is April.

**Alan Hutton (Path Development Group)**

## Flooding Roadshow

The Flood Forum is holding a Roadshow on February 1st 2020 from 12.00 – 14.00 in the Village Club. They will offer advice on protecting homes from potential flooding and will bring examples of equipment, which householders could purchase. It is intended that there will be discussions at a later date about how this equipment could be funded.

## Delivering the BVB

It takes a whole team of local residents to deliver the BVB to 1500 houses every month. We currently need a few more volunteers to provide cover if somebody is unable to deliver any month. This is not a huge commitment, only an hour or so when necessary. If you feel able to donate an hour of your time to help us please contact Julie Hutchison on [contact@strathblanec.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk)

**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 the Community Council

## Strathblane Community Council January Update

*From Chair Julie Hutchison*

The meeting opened with Julie Hutchison being voted in as temporary Chair and Kate Ramsden as temporary Vice-chair.

PC Graham attended the meeting and reported that the village had been relatively quiet during the festive period. Following yet another break in at Mugdock Country Park car park he reminded residents to put valuables out of sight when leaving their cars.

The proposed holiday pods at the Blane Valley Inn generated discussion with representation from interested parties. The Community Council agreed to write to Stirling Council to ask for clarification on several issues, including parking, drainage, accessibility and supervision when the pub is closed.

Following last month's meeting a date was set for members of the Community Council to meet with Lynne McKinley from Stirling Council to move on the Participation Request where the Community Council will work more closely with Stirling Council on matters that affect the community.

As a result of the discussion in December with members of the Ambulance Service, the original letter from Bruce Crawford that states that residents would have the choice of using Forth Valley or Glasgow hospitals, except in cases of accident when you will be taken to the nearest hospital was forwarded to Pam Campbell who will send it to the Ambulance Service. A question was asked if the NHS 24 service would also follow these guidelines as their advice on cross boundary provision is not consistent. The Community Council will clarify this with Bruce Crawford and report back.

Previous discussions about flooding in the village have resulted in the Flooding Forum proposing to hold a Roadshow. See the article elsewhere in the bulletin.

The elected member reported that the budget has been delayed due to the election and that the meeting will now take place on February 27th. There is likely to be a shortfall in the region of £10 million. There is no information about the future of the Strathendrick Home. Fibre Broadband will reach Auchengillan Scout Camp by March.

The next Community Council meeting will be on February 3rd.

## Flooding Survey

Maria Lucey from Stirling Council has contacted the Community Council regarding the recent flooding. Stirling Council has commissioned a flood study of the area, which will investigate the causes of flooding and produce a short list of potential flood mitigation measures. All sources of flooding will be assessed as part of the study and a hydraulic model produced.

A letter has been sent to residents to notify them of topographic and threshold survey works that will take place in the Strathblane and Blanefield area during the week commencing 20th January 2020 as part of the ongoing flooding survey of the area. The results of these surveys will then be used to produce a hydraulic model of the area. This work will be carried out on behalf of Stirling Council by the consultants WSP. The commissioned study is a full flood study and so includes investigative work into all burns, watercourses, discharges and surface water runoff (potentially from fields/the catchment above Strathblane/Blanefield)

Stirling Council have a designated email address to report flooding issues - [flooding@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@stirling.gov.uk)

## Website Issues

The Community Council would like to remind residents that our website has been infected by a virus and is currently unavailable. It should not be accessed until further notice. John Gray is working to resolve the problem with this and in the meantime our minutes will be available on the SCDT website [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online)

## Advertising

The editorial team for the BVB would like to announce a new advertising policy. From the next edition, February 2020, local business advertising will only be through a flier at a cost of £50 or by sponsoring an edition at a cost of £120, which allows a free flier.

Local charities and organisations are welcome to continue advertising events in the bulletin at no cost.

## Get in Touch

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

## Your Community Councillors

Julie Hutchison 770791 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)  
Libraby, Notice boards, local press, Strathblanefield Facebook Page

## Blane Valley Allotments

Blane Valley Allotments welcomes new members so it's a good time to contact us if you are interested in growing your own food and flowers and want a lovely garden space to sit in especially of a sunny evening. It's quite spectacular. It doesn't have to be all hard work, berries and currants are very healthy eating and are easy to grow and mulching instead of digging is very popular. We adjust plot sizes to suit needs and experience. So come and have a conversation with us if you are interested.

Contact - [blanevalleyallotments@btinternet.com](mailto:blanevalleyallotments@btinternet.com)

Or phone Sheena McDonald on 07801813096

We can arrange for someone to show you round and discuss what you need.

## BTFC Committee Needs You!

It is the intention of several long-standing members of the football club committee to be vacating their positions at this year's AGM.

As such, if the club is to function, and play in the Forth and Endrick from Season 2020 onwards, these positions need to be filled by new incumbents who are willing to commit to the requirements of the positions being vacated.

If no one comes forward to undertake this commitment, then there will be no Blanefield Thistle FC playing in the Forth and Endrick League in Season 2020 or beyond.

An EGM will be held on Sunday 2nd February at 1pm in The Lesser Edmonstone Hall to lay out the situation in full to all interested parties in advance of the AGM which will be held in early March.

You're invited to attend both meetings and the willingness for people to step forward and undertake the commitment to working on the committee is crucial if we wish the club to continue as it currently functions and provide an opportunity for the youth of the village to play football.

Edenkiln, Strathblane

## VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

An extraordinary memoir of life in Strathblane before and after the First World War has been discovered. It was written by Alexander Urquhart whose parents rented rooms in Dumbrock Road for many years. Handwritten in three school exercise books, the memoir is filled with vivid recollections of well-known local characters such as "Cuthie" the stationmaster and "Dr Mac" the village GP, as well as the pranks and adventures of young Alex and his pals, some of whom would die in WW1.

Volunteers are sought to transcribe this material into a Word document.

Please contact Anne Balfour on 01360 770750 or email [anne@annebalfour.com](mailto:anne@annebalfour.com)

## Music at the Village Club

Usually running the 2nd Sunday (traditional) & 4th Sunday (electric, blues and covers) Sunday of the month, please check with me for info and tunes.

Electric Session - Sunday 26th January 1.30pm till 5 pm  
Traditional acoustic session - Sunday 9th February 2pm till 4 pm  
All welcome!

Contact George Thom via email [Gethom@me.com](mailto:Gethom@me.com)

## Contacting Stirling Council

Stirling Council has asked us to let residents know that the telephone number to contact the council has changed. Please use 01786 4040. The 0845 number has been discontinued.

## New Library Fundraiser

**Plaid song in Concert –  
Songs of Scotland's history  
and heritage**

**Friday 27th March 2020 in  
the Edmonstone Hall**

**Tickets £12 each. To reserve  
tables for eight people there  
is an additional cost of £20  
per table**

**7.30 pm for 8.0pm. BYOB.  
No bar.**

**Light supper and raffle at  
interval. Raffle prizes  
welcome.**

**Tickets on sale at  
Strathblane Library from  
mid-February.**

## 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

## 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

## STRATHBLANE LIBRARY I.T VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

Tuesdays 28th Jan & 4th Feb 10.30-12noon  
Strathblane Library I.T volunteers will be available to help with laptops/ computers/ ipads/  
Stirling Libraries Digital Resources including e-books.

Please contact the library to book a slot  
**call - 01360 770737 OR email - [strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk)**

## FABULOUS FABRIC BROOCHES

Strathblane Library Friday 7th February. 10.30am - 11.30am

Strathendrick Embroiderer's Guild are hold a 'Simple Starter Sewing Project Drop In' for adults  
at Strathblane Library. Drop in for a coffee and get crafting! No experience needed.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### January 2020

Saturday 18th	10.30 - 11.45am	Strathblane Library drop in Lego fun for aged 7-10
Tuesday 21st	10.30am - 12pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Thursday 23rd	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Saturday 25th	10.15 - 11.45am	'Fun with Fabrics@Strathblane Library' for ages 9-11. Contact to book.
Tuesday 28th	10.30 am- 12pm	Strathblane Library IT volunteers. Contact library to book a slot.
Tuesday 28th	7pm - 9pm	Traditional music session in the Library. Contact Sheila - 770824
Thursday 30th	10.00am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 30th	10.30am - 11am	Bookbug - songs & rhymes for wee ones at Strathblane Library, just drop in.
Thursday 30th	3.15- 4.45pm	'Fun with Fabrics@Strathblane Library' for ages 9-11.contact the library to book.

### February 2020

Monday 3rd	7pm	Community Council meeting Village Club
Tuesday 4th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Tuesday 4th	10.30am - 12pm	Strathblane Library IT volunteers. Contact library to book a slot.
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm	Strathblane Library Film Club. Feb film is 'Moonlight'. All welcome
Thursday 6th	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Friday 7th	10.30 - 11.30am	FABULOUS FABRIC BROOCHES@Library- Come for a coffee and get crafting!
Saturday 8th	1- 3pm	Strathblane Library Code Club. For ages 8+. Places must be booked
Thursday 13th	10am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library
Friday 14th	1.15 - 2pm	Strathblane Library Story & Craft for pre-schoolers & their carers
Saturday 15th	10.30 - 11.45am	Strathblane Library Lego Club. Drop in for lego fun for aged 7-10
Tuesday 18th	11am - 12.30pm	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle, all needleworkers welcome
Tuesday 18th	7pm	Strathblane Library Book Group meeting. Contact the library for further info
Thursday 20th	10am - 12pm	Community Health & Social Care Partnership drop in at Strathblane Library
Tuesday 25th	7-9 pm	Traditional music session in the Library. Contact Sheila - 770824
Thursday 27th	10am - 12pm	Citizen's Advice Bureau drop in at Strathblane Library
Thursday 27th	10.30- 11.30am	Bookbug - songs & rhymes for wee ones at Strathblane Library, just drop in.
Thursday 27th	3.15 - 4.45pm	'Fun with Fabrics@Strathblane Library' for ages 9-11.contact the library to book.
Saturday 29th	10.15 - 11.45am	'Fun with Fabrics@Strathblane Library' for ages 9-11.contact the library to book.
Saturday 29th	1 - 3pm	Strathblane Library Code Club. For ages 8+. Places must be booked
Saturday 29th	9pm	The Black Market. Free gig at the Village Club BYOB

Library Contact - 01360 770 737, [strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk)