

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Nov/Dec 2020 No 81



## GETTING THERE!

### FLYING START FOR LIBRARY CROWDFUNDING APPEAL!

Thanks to YOUR amazing generosity, we're almost 50% of the way to our target of raising £50,000 for the new Thomas Graham community library! Within two weeks of launching our appeal we had received 95 donations totalling £24,285. That is a fantastic response, and SCDT is deeply grateful to everyone who has dug deep to enable this wonderful new village asset to become reality. We've been especially delighted to see the imaginative ways that that people have found to use this cause to make donations. For example:

- To remember lost relatives and friends, for example by making a donation in memory of someone whose name will be inscribed on the wooden model of the Campsies that will be on permanent display in the library
- To donate in the name of a family whose members have joined together to contribute a larger sum than each would make individually
- To provide a lasting Christmas gift for a loved one
- Donations are also being made in the name of a local business
- Local groups such as Strathblane Heritage Society are also donating

"We are deeply grateful for the brilliant response of the community to this special appeal," says SCDT chair Margaret Vass. "It is so encouraging to see that at these challenging times, when we're all facing extra pressures in our daily lives, people are still willing to show their commitment to our villages' long-term future." SCDT is also delighted to report that Stirling Council is committing to a long-term partnership with the community to build and operate the new library. The Council's contribution will take the form of providing the land, of funding library equipment and of course the continuing delivery of the actual library service which includes regular updating of the stock of books, DVD films and other materials. SCDT and Council officials are in the process of negotiating a library Operating Agreement. This will be the first time that Stirling Council has entered such a partnership agreement to deliver its much-loved library service from a community-owned facility.

Just to repeat the essential message about this funding appeal: your Community Development Trust is working hard to raise at least £50,000 to add to the £600,000 that we have already received thanks to the generosity of principal donor Angus Graham and another fund. That's the sort of money we need to be able to press on with building the spectacular design that we've received from Croftamie architects Thomas Robinson.

It couldn't be easier to donate to the library cause. Just visit the SCDT website – [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online) – and you'll find links to PayPal and JustGiving pages. Or use the form enclosed with this issue of the Blane Valley Bulletin.

### Volunteer Group

A volunteer group was formed at the start of the lockdown in March offering assistance to residents. We want to let the village know that we are still here and happy to help out with tasks like picking up groceries & prescriptions, helping you to set up Skype and other online communications, or even just for a wee chat. If you think we can help just give us a call or send us a message, and we will do what we can. Email : [kateramsden2020@gmail.com](mailto:kateramsden2020@gmail.com) Tel : 07801 372 588 or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2614657075527943>

### 2020 Village Christmas Tree



The CC would like to express their gratitude to Duff Christmas Trees in Buchlyvie, who have very kindly donated the Christmas tree to the village. Thank you very much.



The BVB is produced by the Strathblane Community Council and Sponsored this month by Strathblane Parish Church

Have you considered Sponsoring an issue of the Bulletin? Businesses & Community Groups can include an advertising flyer which goes to every household (free of charge when you sponsor an issue). More details from CC

## Strathblane Community Council November Update

*From Chair Julie Hutchison*

Julie Hutchison thanked residents who volunteered to deliver the leaflets about the new library.

For the next three months the new traffic calming on the A81 will be monitored by Stirling Council who will review their findings and report back to the Community Council.

### Paths

Philip Graves met Angela Simpson from SC to discuss damage to the ground beside the path from the Water works. Angela is looking into whether this is part of a core path.

Philip also reported that livestock is being chased in fields near Cuilt Farm. SC will erect warning signs to alert dog walkers to the problem.

There have been several reports of cars speeding along the side of the park. This is obviously dangerous for pedestrians, who have right of way on what is a core path. The Community Council is looking at ways to prevent unauthorised vehicles from using this path.

### Elected Members' report

Rob Davies reported that there was an accident on the Cuilt Road a few weeks ago and he had been concerned that it might have involved walkers on the WHW. In fact this was not the case, but the accident highlighted the need for safer crossing for walkers.

At the last Council planning meeting planning approval was granted for the Finnich Glen and Killearn Hospital developments. There was unanimous approval for the Finnich Glen site but the vote was close for the Killearn Hospital development. Cala had made a reduced community contribution for the Killearn Hospital site due to the clean-up costs. The local councillors were concerned that Cala might pull out so were keen to agree to a reduced contribution. This will be £250,000

for the community, instead of an affordable housing element in the development.

At a Council meeting last week the Chief Executive agreed to give elected members a weekly briefing on Covid developments.

There is a lot of work planned for the Stockiemuir Road over the next few months. Graham Lambie has asked if this can take place at night to minimise disruption to traffic.

As traditional Remembrance services are not allowed this year the church is planning to make a video of individual organisations laying their wreaths. CC members agreed that Graham Lambie and Julie Hutchison will take part in the video.

### Correspondence

The Church Christmas cards will be delivered along with the BVB as the Scouts are unable to provide their usual delivery service.

Julie Hutchison has been approached by the Allotment committee who would like to add more bulbs to the 26 planters in the village as a thank you from the Wee Spuds.

We are proposing to hold our AGM via Zoom before the December meeting on the 7th. Any resident who wishes to join us for the AGM should contact the Community Council via email at [contact@strathblanec.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk)

There are now 4 vacancies in the CC and we need new members. We intend to discuss this at the February meeting. If you can spare some time to help the community, please think about joining us. The closing date for applications will be December 31st also by email at [contact@strathblanec.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk).

### Strathblane Community Development Trust

Email: [scdt@strathblane.online](mailto:scdt@strathblane.online)

Website: [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online)

We deliver projects with grant funding to enhance the village. Please consider joining if you aren't already a member.

### Enquiries and Bookings Contacts

Edmonstone hall

Kim Jones via [info@edmonstonehall.co.uk](mailto:info@edmonstonehall.co.uk).

The Village Club

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

### GET IN TOUCH

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

### Your Community Councillors

Julie Hutchison 770791 Andrew Thompson 07580 539492  
Philip Graves 07826 424442 Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031  
Kate Ramsden 07801 372588 Evelyn Macdougall 770757

Additional Sources — Community website: [www.strathblane.online](http://www.strathblane.online)  
Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; & the Facebook Strathblanefield Page.

### STIRLING COUNCIL

**Councillor's Surgeries are not taking place at present but the local councillors can still be contacted by email.**

**Report Faults at [info@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:info@stirling.gov.uk) or 01786 4040**

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



## No Christmas Scout Post for 2020 for Strathblane & Blanefield

We regret to inform you that the Scout post will not take place this Christmas. This decision was not taken lightly as we know it is appreciated by the community, however considering the number of touch points and number of people required to make it happen we don't feel it's advisable in the current Covid environment. Thank you for your support over the years and we hope to be back in business in 2021. From your local Scout committee



## All Change at The Edmonstone Hall

Following a recent change of personnel, the Edmonstone Hall committee would like to advise a change in the booking procedure. For Hall enquiries and bookings please email us at [info@edmonstonehall.co.uk](mailto:info@edmonstonehall.co.uk). Please also visit our website at [www.edmonstonehall.co.uk](http://www.edmonstonehall.co.uk) where availability can be viewed on the calendar.

The committee would like to thank David McLean for stepping up so promptly when the hall was in danger of having to close, for all his hard work as a key member of the management committee and for managing the bookings for the last few years. We are very pleased that David wants to continue to assist us in looking after the fabric of the building and helping to ensure that we can continue to offer our facilities during the current pandemic.

In the light of these changes we urgently require new members to join the management committee. If you are interested in helping to maintain this vital resource for the village, please contact us via our email address above.

## Station Road Link Path Completed

In the January 2020 issue of the Bulletin The SCDT Path Development Group reported that our long-planned link path would be finished in the Spring. Sadly, since January, a series of hold-ups, nearly all connected in one way or another with Covid-19, have meant that a six week work programme was pushed to over seven months. Finally, the path became open for public use - informally in August and officially by the beginning of October. I know a number of you have already become regular users. Some minor elements of the project have still to be completed. We are very grateful to the staff of our contractor John Coltart Ltd who struggled under difficult circumstances. Thanks also go to our long-term designer and project manager, Richard East of City Design Coop.

The new path completes our multi-user path link— for walkers, wheelers and cyclists — between the western residential parts of Blanefield and the village facilities at the eastern, Strathblane, end of our community. It also helps link more people into the wider path network to Campsie Glen, Mugdock Country Park and beyond.

The new path has been made possible by funding from four agencies: Clackmannan & Stirling Environment Trust; Forth Valley LEADER; The Forbes Brown Memorial Trust; and, our most significant funder for the series of path projects over the last six years, Sustrans Scotland. Finally mention must be made of the important contribution of our resident woodworker, Keith Vass, who has provided us with two more beautiful benches. *Alan Hutton*

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The Community Council would like to thank the Path development group for their hard work on the paths around the village. We would also like to make residents aware that there is a new bin on the Gary Wright Way at the junction of the new path. This replaces the bin on Station Road and should make it easier for dog walkers to dispose of their waste bags.



## New Wildlife Feature

Under the auspices of the SCDT, I approached Edward Pickard last year to see if we could improve the look of the bottom of the 'Horses' Field', where it borders the Railway Path, opposite the football pitch. Edward owns this land. The idea we have is to create a wildlife area with pond (for wild fowl), and to plant trees to help protect the area and hopefully reduce the flooding, and to improve what is often an unappealing looking bit of land! There is lots to establish, not least the existing drains are blocked, and ensuring that we don't inadvertently ADD to potential flooding issues. We need to source funding, make sure that Stirling Council are aware of what is planned, and work with Scottish Water, as their vehicles go past on the railway path track at that point.

[The riding stables have applied for permission to move their riding ring to nearer the Gowk Stane path, and their current ring (and all rubbish that has accumulated there) would be removed completely].

This proposal will not be an easy undertaking, not least because my health (I am living with cancer) may mean that I am unable to pursue this venture at some point in the future. So, if you'd like to help out in anyway - there are lots of wildlife lovers and photographers in the village, and people who may have experience with a project like this - please get in touch. *Jo Waterfield*



## Endrick Legacy Project



The Project strives to eradicate Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and to restore the riparian habitat along the banks of the River Endrick and its main tributary, the River Blane. The project so far has concentrated on INNS control, namely giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed and American mink. The next stage of this project is habitat restoration by clearing blockages in small burns and small-scale tree planting. This project is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage Biodiversity Challenge Fund.

cases, a simple chainsaw cut can make the difference between larger fish reaching or not reaching spawning habitat. The lack of tree cover in spawning and nursery habitats is a concern which will be targeted in this project. From November tree planting will take place where canopy cover is low. Trees provide cover and shade for juvenile fish and leaf fall and nutrients to support aquatic life. It is vital to restore riparian habitats to combat the impact of climate change and make the river environment more resilient during high flooding events.

Man-made obstacles such as culverts, old weirs and damaged fencing are examples of blockages in the system which prevent fish migration. These can be cleared or modified which can open or reclaim sections of potential spawning and nursery habitat for Atlantic salmon and trout. Other blockages include large fallen trees which can cause sediment to build-up, contribute to bank erosion, and ultimately limit fish passage. Woody debris in rivers is important but needs managed to maintain free movement of fish and sediment. In some

Currently Japanese knotweed control is still being implemented throughout the River Blane and along the River Endrick. Unfortunately, this highly destructive invasive plant is spreading throughout the system and this has been intensified from recent flooding events. American mink trapping will also continue in hotspots as we continue to monitor mink activity. For more information about the project please follow our Facebook page, @ScottishNaturalHeritage or check out #BiodiversityChallengeFund

## Dogs and livestock

Following reports that livestock were being chased by out of control dogs in the fields at Cuilt Farm, Kate Ramsden from the Community Council met Angela Simpson from Stirling Council. They walked the access route to the field and Angela identified areas where the core path needs to go through areas that are currently padlocked. They agreed that signs should be put up at entry points to the farmyard and the field, warning dog walkers about keeping dogs on the lead among livestock. Angela suggested that it might be possible to put in 2 or 3 stiles to access the field from the riverside path, enabling walkers to enter the field without climbing the fence. These are quick and easy to install and will help to point people to the correct access points to the field. The long-term solution would be to solve the issue of access through the farmyard along the core path. Angela suggested that it might be possible to create a walk on the right side of the fence that does not need to go through the gates. If this proves to be possible she will require volunteers to carry out this work as she can provide materials etc. but has no access to people to do the work. The Community Council volunteered to find some local residents who would be happy to do this.

## Recycling initiative

*A few years ago, I heard on the radio that Walkers crisps could be recycled via this company, and have collected them ever since - even when litter picking!* Their site explains how you can donate many household goods and packaging, which previously would only go to landfill. Next month, you should be able to see that Strathblane will have a location for 3 different goods to be left for recycling: dental products, dishwasher tablet bags and MARIGOLD gloves. These will be sent for recycling and the money generated from this can be used to purchase recycled equipment and more. In this instance, for Strathblane Community Development Trust. It's very easy to set up an account, so if you'd like to provide a location for something yourself (school? clubs?) you can take part. Have a look at: [www.TerraCycle.com/en-GB](http://www.TerraCycle.com/en-GB) Jo Waterfield

## Strathblane Library

Hi, although we can't yet welcome you back into the building, our 'Select & Collect' service continues to run through November and December. Contact Strathblane Library to organise the collection of up to five books per library member. DVDs are also available –currently free of charge! Food waste bags, dog poo bags and hearing aid batteries can be collected by appointment. For further information & to book a pick up slot contact: 01360 770737, [strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk). Pick up slots are available on Mondays, Thurs pm, Fridays (10-2) & Saturday am. We have had great feedback on 'Select & Collect': *'fantastic service'* and *'I've read and enjoyed books I would not have picked for myself'* - so if you haven't used it, give it a try. Information on how to join the library, using 'Select & Collect', and accessing e-books & e-resources can be found at: <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/libraries-archives/> Please note, at the current time we can **NOT** offer services such as photocopying, printing, scanning. We wish you a Happy Christmas when it comes and thank you for your continued support of the library. Beth & Lynne

## Strathblane Notebooks

Strathblane Heritage Society would like to thank everyone for their great support for the Strathblane Notebooks, the book about growing up in our community before the First World War. Sales of the publication have already raised £1,000 towards the new community library. The hardback has now sold out. However a paperback edition (£8) is now available from The Wilsons, Strathblane Library and the Gavin's Mill charity shop beside the Tesco car park in Milngavie.