

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Sep/Oct 2021 No 84

## Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS)

SWS is a working group of the Strathblane Community Development Trust and its overall objective is to enable community developments which are sustainable - socially, economically and environmentally - and which improve facilities and the quality of life of residents. The group is made up of members with a range of skills from multiple different areas of the community, from the local playgroup, allotment users, wildlife enthusiasts and ranges from families with young children through to older and experienced members.

The purpose is to restore and create a safe space for wildlife, providing varied habitats of woodland, thicket, hedgerow, wetland and meadow. This space is also designed to provide space for education and opportunities for volunteering, community engagement and participation. We hope to achieve a place of biodiversity, climate-positive effects on a small scale, but with a positive long term role in educating both young and older people of our human responsibilities to our planet. The aim is to be inclusive and focussed on sustainability.



Planting of native trees and hedgerows is planned to start this winter, depending on success of grant applications. We have just received the good news that our Woodland Trust (WT) application has been successful, which should cover the cost of most of the trees. A WT officer will be assigned to the site and will visit us before the end of October to help advise on the most appropriate trees. Planting could then possibly start in November. A pond, hides and wheelchair-accessible footpaths are part of the design in making this an attractive, accessible and inclusive space for all to enjoy.

On 22nd August we held a very successful Open Day, at which over 150 people came long to learn about the plans, and through cake and plant sales, plus generous donations, £550 was raised to help the project.

If you are interested in becoming part of the group or being a 'Friend of SWS', please do get in touch with us at [strathblanewildlifesanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:strathblanewildlifesanctuary@gmail.com) or follow us on facebook or Instagram @strathblanewildlifesanctuary.

## Bin Collection Consultation

The community council invited feedback from residents so that we could take their concerns and comments to the council at an information session about changes to waste management. The other community representatives from our ward attending the meeting had done the same and they shared similar concerns and objections to the plans. Information regarding the changes can be found on the Stirling Council website <https://stirling.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/recycle-4-stirling> and are being shared via social media. Some of the key points from the session were:



Q. This was originally referred to as a consultation; are the changes still up for review or might they be overturned/amended?

A. The changes are definitely coming into effect in September.

Q. Why is this being done? A. currently grey bins contain approx 50% of materials that should be being recycled. In addition, blue bins are rarely even half full on the fortnightly collection.

Q. Would more education on recycling not solve this problem without impacting waste collection? A. this is being rolled out along with the awareness project for the changes to the collections.

Q. Does this not contradict Stirling's pledge to meeting recycling targets and reduce waste? Surely increasing collections of recyclable materials, not reducing would be a better plan? A. The National Deposit Scheme is due to come into effect in July 2022 and this should account for 90% of recyclable materials currently being collected from roadside.

Q. Could on-street recycling facilities be introduced to encourage recycling and reduce littering. A. This doesn't work due to non-recyclables and waste being put into the bins.

Q. Is this a cost cutting exercise? A. No, there will be no bin crew reductions.

Q. Other authorities have changed to a 3 weekly collection schedule, would this not be a better 'middle ground'? A. Their bins have a smaller volume and that is what dictates the collection schedule.

Q. What about people who have additional waste e.g. medical waste or nappies that will exceed the capacity available in a monthly collection. A. an additional E-bin will be available for people in this situation and information about these is being published by the council. These are available for people with medical waste, or families with two or more children in nappies. No additional bins will be available for pet waste.

The responses and solutions were all geared towards the volume of waste produced by the average household, and no comment was made about people's concerns of the pest/hygiene implications of a monthly collection, especially in summer.

# Strathblane Community Council AGM and September Update

*From Chair Julie Hutchison*

## AGM

The following office bearers were elected for the new session:

Chair – Julie Hutchison

Vice-chair – Kate Ramsden

Secretary – Grace Edmonds

Treasurer – Evelyn Macdougall

Planning and Licensing – John Gray

plants that they see and leave them on the ground, although this should not be done when they are flowering.

## Dangerous driving

Residents have reported that people are driving along the pavement between Dumbrock Road and the Co-op. This is incredibly dangerous and has been reported to the Police. The CC will contact SC regarding the possibility of putting bollards along the pavement at this point.

## Elected Member's Report

RD confirmed that the new bin collection schedule will start as planned this month.

Council officers are gradually returning to their offices.

JH thanked the members of the CC for their support over the last year and welcomed the new committee members.

**Date of next meeting:** 4th October 2021

We continue to meet via Zoom until SC gives permission for CCs to meet in person.

## September Update

### New member

Pamela Lee had volunteered to join the CC and her co-option was agreed by all the members present. JH welcomed her to the CC. We now have 10 members, but we still have one vacancy if anybody is interested in joining us.

### Himalayan Balsam

Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust led a small group of volunteers to tackle the Himalayan Balsam along the Blane. There is a huge amount of this plant in the village and it will be an ongoing problem. Members of the public can pull out any

## Strathblane Heritage Society - A Sense of Place

When many of us came to live in the village in the 60's and 70's, we were warmly welcomed by the people of the village, many of whom had been born and brought up here. Murray O'Donnell was one, and it was through his involvement with many different groups in the village that he passed on to us his strong sense of place. This was especially important to his work with the Heritage Society whose aims are to promote the benefits of living in our community; to encourage interest in the origins, the geography, the natural and social history of the parish of Strathblane; and to promote a keen awareness of the environmental well-being of this area. Murray sadly has passed on, leaving us to carry on the work of taking care of this beautiful valley, ensuring that the next generation grow up knowing about this special place, our hills and wooded valley, with places to play and explore, and the stories of the people who have lived here before us. Over this fallow period we have talked to people in the village about the future of the Heritage Society. We have received many encouraging comments and offers of support. A wide range of ideas has emerged as to the way forward. We have decided to meet monthly on Monday evenings at the Village Club. Our first meeting to reconvene the society will be on 18 October at 7.30pm. Our meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the wider Strathblane Parish. We will welcome the return, support and experience of our longstanding members, and those who are new to the village and would like to know more. We want your ideas and energy to ensure the continuation of the Strathblane Heritage Society. Hoping to see you on Monday 18 October 7.30pm at the Village Club.

## Opportunity To Get Involved!

The village Scout & Guide Hall Committee are looking for new members from across our community to help look after the interests of the hall, without which we wouldn't be able to run many of the uniformed groups or SOSC after school club which so many people have benefitted from over the years. The Hall Committee are not involved with running or fundraising for the Scout and Guide groups, just looking after the interests of the hall. If you are able to spare a little time to join the committee please contact Helen at [h.treacher@outlook.com](mailto:h.treacher@outlook.com) Thank you.

## Community Led Visitor Management Enabler Fund

In response to the many challenges created by the increased visitor numbers to the Forth Valley and Lomond eligible area (see [www.fvl.org.uk](http://www.fvl.org.uk)) Anne-Michelle Ketteridge of the LEADER Team has asked us to forward information regarding funding of up to £10,000 per community that has been made available to community groups and businesses to address these issues. Projects may have already started, and this grant could be seen as a stepping stone towards larger funding which may be available.

To find out more about the aims of this scheme and who is eligible to apply either contact the email address above or [ketteridgea@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:ketteridgea@stirling.gov.uk) Tel: 01786233155 Mob: 07464988614t could be seen as a stepping stone towards larger funding which may be available.

## Coffee (and SO much more) at the Wilsons



Three years ago Paul and Jim Wilson didn't even know where Blanefield was. Today they run a successful café, deli and take-away here that draws customers and praise from near and far and they confidently anticipate a bright future. And all this despite a global pandemic that has seen many similar businesses flounder.

Coffee at the Wilsons opened on 2 December 2019 after the guys decided to go it alone, following many years working for big companies, primarily Costa Coffee. Their winning menu, excellent coffee and engaging personalities quickly endeared Wilsons to the locals.

On the day of lockdown in March 2020 Paul and Jim transformed the business overnight. "Because we have a takeaway licence, we knew we could remain open. People always need coffee and we knew they would come when they could," says Paul. They did. And when everyone started baking bread and the supermarkets ran out of flour, Wilsons somehow magicked up their own supply.

Since then, "Persevere & Adjust" has been the mantra: food displayed in a glass cube; menus on the wall; compostable cups; a £400 hand-sanitising system; planters to enforce social distancing outside; new doors to ventilate the café – all to keep customers safe. And while other businesses were furloughing staff, The Wilsons took on more. Their efforts have been rewarded with a big upturn in business, including a growing band of enthusiastic regulars. Daily posts on Facebook and Instagram have helped spread the word.

"If you live your own brand, you can make it work," says Jim. "Opening Wilsons is the best thing we've ever done. We love Blanefield and have made it our home. People in the village are so friendly. We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with everyone with the new stock we have coming in. Thanks everyone."

## Flooding Request

During the last very heavy rainfall driveways and garages on Southburn Road were flooded. We would urge drivers, where possible, not to go through flooded areas in order to avoid making the damage worse as the 'wash' from the cars makes the water flow down driveways faster.

<p><b>STIRLING COUNCIL</b> Councillor's Surgeries are not taking place at present but the local councillors can still be contacted by email. Report Faults at <a href="mailto:info@stirling.gov.uk">info@stirling.gov.uk</a> or 01786 404040 Updates at <a href="http://www.stirling.gov.uk">www.stirling.gov.uk</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GET IN TOUCH</b></p> <p>SCC Email at <a href="mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk">contact@strathblanecc.org.uk</a> or via our website at <a href="http://www.strathblanecc.org.uk">www.strathblanecc.org.uk</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Your Community Councillors</b></p> <p>Julie Hutchison 770791 Andrew Thompson 770838 Eleanor Balfour 07742 278214 Philip Graves 07826 424442 Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031 Kate Ramsden 07801 372588 Evelyn Macdougall 770757 Craig Melville 0780 301798 Pamela Lee 07801 417655</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Additional Sources — Community website: <a href="http://www.strathblane.online">www.strathblane.online</a> Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; &amp; the Facebook Strathblanefield Page.</p>
<p><b>Strathblane Community Development Trust</b> Email: <a href="mailto:scdt@strathblane.online">scdt@strathblane.online</a> Website: <a href="http://www.strathblane.online">www.strathblane.online</a> We deliver projects with grant funding to enhance the village. Please consider joining if you aren't already a member. <b>AGM 7.30 pm Monday 26th October in the Village Club, members and new members welcome.</b></p>	<p><b>Enquiries and Bookings Contacts</b> Edmonstone hall Kim Jones via <a href="mailto:info@edmonstonehall.co.uk">info@edmonstonehall.co.uk</a></p> <p>The Village Club Check schedule at <a href="http://www.villageclub1911.org">www.villageclub1911.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:strathblanevc@gmail.com">strathblanevc@gmail.com</a></p>

**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 at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk)

# Strathblane Library News September

So, we are fully back in action now. It is so good to see familiar faces (albeit with masks on!)

## Opening hours

Mondays and Fridays 10-1 and 2-5pm;

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-1 and 3-7pm;

Saturday 10-1 p.m.

We have a limit of six people in at a time and we do ask for those masks and a check in form. We are still happy to do "Select and Collect" if you would prefer, just give us a ring and we will look out books for you.

We have lots of new books and would love to see you back with us.

**Returns:** If you have any library items to return from over lockdown, please drop them back to us. No fines, no shame-we would just like them back.

**Fun Palaces...** "Sharing Skills, connecting communities, creating tiny revolutions"

Check out this website for "Fun Palaces" online events throughout the country on the first weekend of October [www.funpalaces.co.uk](http://www.funpalaces.co.uk)

If you are feeling creative yourself, pick up a bookmark with an inspiring quote from us and be part of a "Fun Palace" yourself!

## Fire Alarm Regulations

As you will have seen on TV, "The law on Fire Alarms is changing in Scotland and EVERY home in Scotland needs interlinked fire alarms"

The library has a stock of Safer Scotland Scottish Government leaflets explaining what each householder has to do to be compliant. Feel free to come and pick one up.

Lynne & Beth

Finally, as myself, Lynne - Can I just say a big thank you to all who have been enquiring after my health and have sent cards and messages of support while I was unable to work for these last few months. Like the library, I am now fully back in action and am looking forward to welcoming you all back into the library.

## STRATHBLANE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU



Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm-4pm at Strathblane Library

Drop in - no appointment necessary

Contact Chris Kinnaird [07498925157](tel:07498925157)  
[chris.kinnaird@stirlingcab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:chris.kinnaird@stirlingcab.casonline.org.uk)



## Strathblanefield Help Line – We're still here!

A reminder to the village that the Strathblanefield Volunteers are still available to help you; whether you are shielding for Covid or kept in by the snow and ice. We can help you with your grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions etc, or just a friendly voice on the phone. We can help you get set up with Skype/Zoom etc so you can stay in touch with your family.

Blanefield: Kate – 07801 372 588

Netherblane: Janice – 07952 823 509 or  
Isabel – 07759 204842

Kirkhouse: Elsie – 07843 491 324, Ann – 01360 770 816 or  
Jacque – 01360 770 764,

Southview Kim- 07771 653520

Please don't struggle – give us a call today: