

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Feb/Mar 2022 No 87

Phil Graves – a tribute



Strathblane Community Council are sad to inform the community of the death of one of our long serving Community Councillors, Philip Graves. Phil was an enthusiastic colleague and former Chair who gave freely of his time on the Community Council. He will be sadly missed by all of us.

Andy Thompson and John Gray, two of his fellow Community Councillors and his friend Councillor Rob Davies have compiled our tribute to Phil.

Andy Thompson worked with Phil both on the Community Council and on the Wildlife sanctuary. He remembers Phil's great enthusiasm for both: Phil has been a vital member of this community for many years, bringing enthusiasm, energy and commitment to the many projects and organisations he immersed himself in. He was a long-standing member and one-time Chair of the Community Council. Given his passion for all things environmental, he was an active founding member of Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary, for which he arranged the delivery of hedging plants and trees just prior to his untimely death. Anyone who knew him was struck by his interest and passion in making a positive difference within the villages, often giving a thoughtful opinion and a kind word in support of others. We will miss him greatly, as a friend and colleague, but hope to keep his spirit alive in our continuing

projects for the benefit of current and future generations.

Fellow community councillor John Gray says: "I find I cannot think about Philip without a smile coming to my face. Many years ago, it was his game performances in the village panto. Always, it was the example he set cycling everywhere when the rest of us would drive (or just not bother), and the enthusiasm for the outdoors that he and his family displayed together. In our many years together on the community council, Philip would attend and contribute with enthusiasm, too. He was always open with his thoughts and ideas, and this was especially exciting when you felt he was about to say, out loud, something that the rest of us would only dare to think to ourselves! Philip was also very open and open-hearted speaking about his diagnosis, urging others to get checked and not be caught out. In Zoom, we often heard Phil and Sue chatting "behind the scenes" but with the microphone still on. We can only guess at the gap Philip leaves behind in that happy household. The members of the Community Council send best wishes to Sue and the family, and thanks for sharing so much of Phil's energy with the community."

Rob Davies, a local councillor and close friend of Phil's writes: A mutual friend recommended that Philip should join my tiny company and we quickly became firm friends through our mutual interest in current affairs. It was always a joy to have Philip in the office as there was so much to talk about and he always had some insightful view or opinion on what was going on. In 2012 I managed to persuade him to stand as a candidate in the Council elections and he diligently threw himself into campaigning and cycled everywhere in what is rather a large ward in geographical terms. Alas he was not successful and, despite my best efforts, I could not get him to stand again in 2017. If he had he would surely have been elected and would have made an excellent and enthusiastic councillor.

Phillip was a pleasure to be around. Never a harsh word for anyone and always extremely encouraging to the stream of interns who came through our door. More recently we would meet in Mugdock for a walk followed by lunch and he never failed to update me on the latest developments in the Country Park with his suggestions for remedies. Though not all of them were politically feasible I might add. He was someone you could bounce ideas off, whether business or local matters, and you could rely on his sage opinion to add value and throw extra light on the problem.

I will miss him greatly, but count myself lucky to have known and worked with him and to have had the privilege of calling him a friend.

Strathblane Community Council February Report

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Julie welcomed everybody to the Zoom meeting and said we would discuss a return to Village Club later in the meeting.

Update on the Resilience Plan

Andy and Kate have circulated a draft plan to CC members. They plan to send it to the Resilience Officer at SC for approval. Once there is agreement from the council, Appendix E will be sent to every household via the BVB. Julie thanked Andy and Kate for their work.

Parking Issues

Various parking issues were discussed. With support from our local councillor, SC and consultation with the residents, we will try to resolve them. There will be an article in the BVB to raise awareness of these issues.

Elected members report.

Rob Davies stated there would be an election in May and the budget will be released before then. He said that council tax is likely to be capped at 3%.

The council has agreed to let Cala to remediate the Killearn Hospital site in two phases.

Rob will look into the bin collection issues.

Library

Margaret Vass reported that representatives from the contractor, the SCDT and Thomas Graham Library attended the bulldozing of the library and the site is now cleared. The contractors are building good relations with the school. The school will be asked to make a Time Capsule which will be buried at the site.

AOCB

Rob Davies was asked if he had been in touch with the neighbours whose gardens have been effected by run offs from the building site. There are also issues with excess mud on the road.

It was agreed that we would resume our meetings in the Village Club. The next meeting will be on Monday 7th March

Strathblane Heritage Society - Dates for Your Diary

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21 March, 7.30pm in the Village Club. This meeting will start with our AGM. The committee would welcome new members. Among the options to be considered for the coming year is the establishment of a Strathblane Heritage Trail, linked to a new website. After the AGM we will welcome our special guest, author and broadcaster Sally Magnusson, who will be reading short extracts from her latest novel, *The Ninth Child*, set against the backdrop of the building of the Loch Katrine waterworks, and discussing the various themes in the book with ex-journalist Anne Balfour. This will be the fourth and final meeting for this winter season. Huge thanks are due to our winter speakers. Anne Balfour gave an excellent talk on *The Strathblane Notebooks* in December. In January we were entertained by 'the two Alastairs', Alastair Smith and Alastair Balfour, who talked about their road trip to India in 1969. By the time you read this, Willie Wallace and Donald Macintyre, who attended Blanefield School in the 1950s, will have shared their early memories of local life with us at the February meeting.

Look out for dates for more meetings in the autumn. We aim to hold these on the third Monday of the month between September and March, except December, at 7.30 in the Village Club. Many thanks to more than fifty people who have supported the society with their annual membership this season. We are always on the lookout for interesting speakers, if you have any suggestions please contact us at strathblane.heritage@btinternet.com

Entry to the meetings is free to all. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served after the talk

Knit and Natter group.

Due to the closure of the Kirkhouse on a Monday and Tuesday for a few weeks the group is meeting on a Thursday morning every fortnight from 10.30am. In February the dates are the 10th and 24th. The March date will be either Tuesday 8th or Thursday 10th depending on when the Kirkhouse will open again at the beginning of the week.

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.

To Park Or Not To Park?...That Is The Question

Parking was raised at our February meeting of the Community Council. The discussion centred around three specific sites in the village which have demonstrated that some motorists put convenience before HEALTH AND SAFETY.

The first site of serious concern is at the bottom of Old Murdock Road where double yellow lines are clearly marked. Vehicles not only park on the yellow lines but also mount the pavement showing no regard for the safety of the residents whose front doors open onto the pavement or pedestrians who have to step into the road to get past. An even more worrying trend is for motorists to mount the pavement when turning left from Dumbrock Road onto Old Mugdock Road and driving at speed up the pavement. See pictures below.

The second area of concern is the amount of traffic around the school at 'drop off' and 'pick up' times. This situation has been exacerbated by the closure of the library. Parents have resorted to parking on the pavements and even on the zig-zag yellow lines on either side of the main gates. Police have been alerted to the situation and are monitoring it. In the past the Kirkhouse Inn allowed its car park to be used by parents for the express purpose of delivering and collecting their children from school. In fact the pedestrian crossing was installed for this purpose. The chair of the CC approached the Kirkhouse management recently and they are happy for the car park to be used in this way. It would be helpful if parents could be considerate when parking there and use spaces near the back of the car park to allow patrons of the hotel to park closer to the doors. Of course it is not as convenient but is this not a price worth paying to keep our children safe?

Lastly the CC discussed the non-collection of bins on Milndavie Road as parked cars are preventing the bin lorry from getting through. With the new once a month service it becomes a health and safety issue if bins are not emptied. It is imperative that vehicles park responsibly to allow this vital service to operate.

Legislation will be coming into effect soon which will make parking on pavements a criminal offence.

Let us all be more aware of the effect our actions have on others and keep our community safe.



<p>STIRLING COUNCIL Councillor's Surgeries are restarting at 7pm Dec.6 at the Village Club. Report Faults at info@stirling.gov.uk or 01786 404040 Updates at www.stirling.gov.uk</p>	<p>GET IN TOUCH SCC Email at contact@strathblanec.org.uk or via our website at www.strathblanec.org.uk Your Community Councillors Julie Hutchison 770791 Andrew Thompson 770838 Eleanor Balfour 07742 278214 Pamela Lee 07801 417655 Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031 Kate Ramsden 07801 372588 Evelyn Macdougall 770757 Craig Melville 0780 301798 Additional Sources — Community website: www.strathblane.online Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; & the Facebook Strathblanefield Page.</p>
<p>Strathblane Community Development Trust Email: scdt@strathblane.online Website: www.strathblane.online We deliver projects with grant funding to enhance the village. Please consider joining if you aren't already a member.</p>	<p>Enquiries and Bookings Contacts Edmonstone hall Kim Jones via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk The Village Club Check schedule at www.villageclub1911.org or email strathblanevc@gmail.com</p>

Strathblane Library News - February

We are delighted to say we are now fully settled in to our new temporary home in the Kirkrooms.

We are back to our normal hours and very much look forward to welcoming you all back.

The library is split into two rooms, an adult section and a junior section, very cosy indeed with a wee craft table as an addition to the books. Although the adult selection of books may be smaller than you were used to, we have tried to bring only the newer, fresher stock with us, so we are definitely aiming for the quality over quantity. We can still tap into the wide range of books throughout Stirling Libraries as well, so come and check us out. (that's a library pun!) We can offer photocopying and laminating services again, but as yet we cannot print anything from computers or phones.

We also have LFT testing kits, free dog bags are back AND

DISTANCE AWARE BADGES AND LANYARDS

As we come out of lockdown more and more there are many of us who would still wish to keep a distance from others when in crowded places. NHS Scotland has provided libraries with

DISTANCE AWARE lanyards and badges which are a simple way of letting others around you know that you may need, or simply wish, to maintain social distancing.

Along with Balfron and Drymen libraries, we are also very happy to be hosting THE SEED LIBRARY A brand new initiative where varieties of seeds are in small packets ready to be taken for you to plant. The seed library aims to get you growing, harvesting plants and even maybe redonating the seeds of anything you plant. One aim of the seed library is also to save seeds so perhaps you have seeds that you could donate to the library as well. New packets of seeds are being added so, it is worth more than one visit to see what's new. For more information you can visit

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/propagation/seeds/how-to-start-a-seed-library.htm>

or just come along to see for yourselves what is available.

Finally, The CAB Drop In Sessions have restarted fortnightly on a Thursday between 1 and 3 p.m. and Chris Kinnaird will expect to be in the library on 3rd March, 17th March 31st March.

Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary

We acknowledge Phil Graves' long time dedication and knowledge of wildlife and woodland. His untimely passing leaves a significant gap in the SWS team. Phil made a huge contribution to the progress of the Wildlife Sanctuary through his efforts to raise funds for tree and hedge plants. This resulted in the recent hedge planting day (1,000 plants) and in securing 1,200 trees for the **tree planting weekend on 5th and 6th March**. The enthusiastic response from the community is most encouraging. About 40 people of all ages turned up to plant the hedges. Many are signing up for the tree planting weekend.

Hazel weaving training day on Sunday, 3rd April - to construct a wildlife hide - is fully booked. Significant funds were raised by all who supported the Open Day and Christmas Fayre. We have successfully raised funds to pay for tree & hedge plants (£4K), pond restoration (£7K), disability access path (£12K).

The pile of low-hanging branches cut from the trees next to the track was moved to a site under the bank to create a habitat for wildlife normally found on a woodland floor among dead leaves, small twigs, rotting logs. These small and often invisible creatures form a vital part of the ecosystem. Deer fence - now completed along the south boundary with the horse field. Edward Pickard has generously funded this important safeguard.

WATCH OUT for.....but KEEP CLEAR of : contractors starting pond work early April, and footpath work in May/June.

This is an exciting community project - its yours! So get involved. Come along to the TREE PLANTING weekend 5th & 6th March.....your help is welcome. There will always be something to do. For example: **litter picking** to clean up before the tree planting weekend. Champion Fun Hut team of 11 recently filled 5 bags of litter from the site! But there's more to collect.... so bring a bag, fill it up and take it away....!! & come along to our **1st AGM - online - MONDAY 21st MARCH**

Email: strathblanewildlifesanctuary@gmail.com for details and zoom link

YOUR BVB NEEDS YOU!

The Community Council publish the Bulletin but receive no funding to do this and rely on sponsorship to maintain this valuable source of local information Please consider sponsoring an issue of the Bulletin. For modest sums, Businesses & Community Groups can sponsor an issue or include an advertising flyer which goes to every household. More details from Evelyn Macdougall at contact@strathblanec.org.uk

