

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Nov/Dec 2021 No 86

Flooding in Strathblane/Blanefield – we need your help!

Since 2019 Strathblane and Blanefield have experienced numerous flooding events caused by extreme levels of rainfall over relatively short periods of time. The severity and increasing regularity of the events continues to cause distress and anxiety as



we see our access roads blocked with fast flowing torrents of water, houses and gardens damaged, and large areas of the park and open lands completely inundated.

For the last 2 years a group of residents have been working with Stirling Council on flooding issues in the area, and to help develop a fuller understanding of the flood risk. The council have reviewed historic data and

maintenance records, as well as completing a topographic and threshold survey to produce a hydraulic model of the area. This model, however, is not the full picture and the validation, or amendment, of the baseline flood maps using information from the community is important before the model can be used to test potential measures to address flooding.

We therefore need your help in gathering vital information on what has happened in your area so that the council can do something about it. We need any pictures, videos or other details you have from flooding events. This includes failure of drains and road gullies, as well as overflowing burns. The council will use these to make sure that the maps are accurate, identify areas of risk and significant impact and then get something done about it.

You can find out more about the plans and activities and upload any information or details via the Group's story map under "Survey Information". The story map is here: <https://arcg.is/0Djue4>. If you are not able to go via this link, you can email flooding@stirling.gov.uk stating that you are submitting historical data for this survey, and the team can help.

Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary

We have at last received a visit from the Woodland Trust officer to assess our grant application and advise on an appropriate mix of trees. Five of us walked the site on 7 November and explained our plans. He was very impressed with the extent of these and our sketch maps. Not only will the trees provide additional biodiversity to the village, they could also absorb some of the flood waters flowing off the fields above.

The Trust will cover three-quarters of the cost of the trees and we'll have to fund the rest. We are pleased to be able to announce that we have been successful in raising £1000 from the Stirling Council Community Pride Fund to contribute to this, as well as for materials and training to build the hazel hides. We've already got 30 or so volunteers willing to help with the planting. We can't yet fix a start date, as like everything else at present, trees and stakes are in short supply. If we're lucky we might be able to start before Christmas, but spring looks more likely. Updates will be on our Facebook page.

Meanwhile we've been working away at other potential grants, including one from the Scottish Landfill Fund, which we are hoping will cover the capital costs of the paths and the pond.

2021 Village Christmas Tree



The CC would like to express its gratitude to Duff Christmas Trees in Buchlyvie, who have very kindly donated the Christmas tree to the village again this year. Thank you very much. *Alas COVID restrictions mean we will have no switch on again.*



Scout Post Returns for 2021

The local Scout, Cubs and Beavers are delighted to inform you that we are able to offer the Scout Post this year, delivering your Christmas cards in the village for a small donation per card. Please look out for posters in the village with more information.

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 (The flyer is free of charge when you sponsor an issue).



Strathblane Community Council November Report

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Julie welcomed everybody to the meeting and said that it was good to be able to meet in person again. This was our first hybrid meeting, with some members of the CC joining the meeting via Zoom.

Elected Members' Report

Rob Davies reported that the Catterburn Bridge at Croftamie is currently being surveyed and a budget has been allocated for the repair. He also said that there have been many complaints regarding bins not being emptied. He suggested that residents who are experiencing problems should contact SC directly or through him.

Update on Flooding Issues

Doug Bertram joined the meeting to give us an update on the work that the Flood Group has been doing. A number of sources of flooding have been identified

and a study is being carried out to identify areas likely to flood in the future. Flooding issues are being included in the CC Resilience Plan which is currently being updated.

Doug emphasised that the group would like residents to provide evidence taken during flood events.

AOCB

Margaret Vass reported that there has been progress on the library, but they still can't say when the build will start.

Date of next meeting – December 6th, 2021, in the Village Club.

The CC would like to thank Coffee at the Wilsons for providing coffee prior to the Remembrance Service

Strathblane Heritage Society - Dates for Your Diary

The Strathblane Heritage Society held an open meeting on 18th October in the Village Club to discuss the future of the Society. Everyone agreed that Murray O'Donnell will be a hard act to follow but a new nine-strong committee is now in place to take the society forward under the interim leadership of Jenny Oswald.

It has been decided to move our monthly meetings to Mondays. We aim to hold these on the third Monday of the month, between September and March, at 7.30 in the Village Club. (except December)

On 15th November Anne Balfour gave an excellent talk about her book "The Strathblane Notebooks". She described how she came across the seven original notebooks and thanked all the people who transcribed them. The photos she showed sparked some interesting discussion among long standing residents and she shared some of the most entertaining stories from the notebooks with us. Thank you Anne.

An exciting programme of talks and other events and initiatives is being planned. Speakers in 2022 will include journalist and broadcaster Sally Magnusson who has kindly agreed to talk about her most recent novel, which revolves around the building of the Corporation of Glasgow Water Works at Loch Katrine. Meetings are all free and there will be refreshments of the traditional tea and biscuits variety after the talks, giving villagers old and new, young and old, a chance to socialise and share their memories of the village informally. We hope to invite some of our village elders to share their reminiscences at future meetings.

What would you like to see SHS tackling? If you have any ideas for future activities, please contact us at birchbank6d@btinternet.com

Watch out for details of future events on 24 Jan. 21 Feb. and 22 March 2022

Blanefield Thistle FC

Blanefield Thistle FC are delighted to announce we've secured kit sponsorship for the 2022 season from a player and a former player who both run their own businesses. We really appreciate the generous support from CJ Junk (Craig Jamieson) and ML Roofing (Mark Linning). Keep an eye on our social media platforms for the big reveal! We can be found at @blanefieldthistle (Facebook) and @blanefieldthistlefc (Instagram)

There's a lot of work to be carried out getting the pavilion tidied up and renovated, so we're beginning with a clear out at 2pm on Saturday 27th November. If anyone wants to help, please feel free to pop down. We're also looking for assistance or guidance in carrying out the necessary repair work to the building and roof, if you have expertise in this area please get in touch.

We are actively seeking a manager to lead the team into next season, if you wish to put yourself forward for the position, please send a note of interest to Blanefieldthistle@gmail.com or contact Craig Dunn on 07920 584604

New Library Lift-Off - The Thomas Graham Library is GO!!

After two years of work, Strathblane Community Development Trust has agreed the detailed designs and finalised a £950,000 budget to build this wonderful new amenity for our village. A Letter of Intent has been issued to our chosen builders, a local firm.

Stirling Council have agreed a detailed Operating Agreement, under which they will continue to deliver the library service that we all so highly value, from the community-owned facility. The last remaining piece to be fitted into the complex jigsaw of this project is for the council to find a temporary home for Strathblane Library during the 10-month construction period. SCDT understands that the Kirk Rooms are the most likely choice.

We hope that December will see the removal of the 40-year-old portable cabin in Kirkburn Road that has been home to Strathblane Library for so long.....and then in the new year work will begin on our exciting new library and community hub building.

“We’ve been flat out in the past couple of months, trying to finalise the deal with the council, and trying to keep the build cost within our budget which has been extremely difficult given the current explosion in the cost of building materials, “ explained SCDT chair Margaret Vass. “While we have managed to reduce some of the initial costs that we were facing, without changing the dramatic look and feel of the great architect’s designs, we have had to go back to our principal donor Angus Graham who has nobly agreed to substantially increase his commitment. We’ve also won a substantial grant from the Scottish Government towards the cost of the expensive renewable energy system that’s going into the new building to ensure that it is genuinely a carbon-neutral development.”

The fantastic commitment by 270 people in the village to donate to this ambitious project is finally about to be rewarded by the start of work on site. Please keep an eye on the village Facebook page and local noticeboards for further updates. A joint press announcement by SCDT and Stirling Council is being planned.

Knit and Natter group.

Before Covid a knitting group met in the Strathblane library on a Tuesday morning, every two weeks. We are still unable to meet in the library as groups are not allowed in any library at this time and of course the library will be demolished to make way for a new building. This will take time. However, the Kirkhouse has kindly agreed to accommodate a knitting group on a regular basis (every two weeks). The first meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th January from 10.30am. We would purchase teas/coffees (maybe cake?!) in very pleasant surroundings for a couple of hours. It does not matter your standard of knitting. You might want to knit for a charity or concentrate on your own projects. All will be very welcome. Any questions text/ phone Pam Lee on 07801 417655. Hope to see you on the 11th!

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:

<p>STIRLING COUNCIL Councillor’s Surgeries are restarting at 7pm Dec.6 at the Village Club.</p> <p>Report Faults at info@stirling.gov.uk or 01786 404040 Updates at www.stirling.gov.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GET IN TOUCH</p> <p>SCC Email at contact@strathblanec.org.uk or via our website at www.strathblanec.org.uk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your Community Councillors</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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: 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 strathblanecv@gmail.com</p>

Strathblane Library News - November

We are now back to our normal opening hours and it's lovely to welcome people back to borrow books, DVDs, use computers, print, scan, colour in, read stories, and lots more!

Our computer system has recently been sending out "auto renewal notices" so don't be surprised if you get an email from Stirling Libraries to that effect, it's all good news really! I

Also, if you think you may have books from way back "Before Covid", feel free to come and drop them off to us any time.

As yet, we still cannot have groups meeting in the library due to the limited size of our building.

But....

Stirling Citizens Advice hold a drop-in at the library every second Thursday 2-4pm. The next sessions are Nov. 25th & Dec. 9th.

The library team are delighted to say that we will have Charity Christmas cards for sale over the coming weeks.

As a wee reminder our opening hours are:

Monday & Friday 10-1, 2-5pm,

Tuesday & Thursday 10-1, 3-7pm,

Saturday 10-1pm.

Contact: 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes, Lynne & Beth

STRATHBLANE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU



Every 2nd Thursday 2pm–4pm at Strathblane Library

Drop in - no appointment necessary

Contact Chris Kinnaird [07498925157](tel:07498925157)

chris.kinnaird@stirlingcab.casonline.org.uk



Beware of Scams. Advice from Police Scotland

Fraudsters can make contact with you by phone. The caller might pretend to be from your bank and ask for personal information such as bank details or they might be someone offering you a deal or a prize. Other calls have been made by persons purporting to be from HMRC stating that there was a warrant out for the receiver of the call and was asked to contact the number that was given. This is clearly a false call so please heed the advice below:

- Consider making your phone number ex-directory.
- Don't give out any personal information unless you are the one who made the call and you are certain of the identity of the person you are speaking to.
- Don't give out your credit card or bank card details to strangers on the telephone.
- NEVER tell somebody your bank PIN number, even if they claim to be the bank or police. If the caller is genuine they will never ask for this information.
- Don't give out information which may infer that you live alone, are older or vulnerable.
- Never send money to anyone who claims to have a prize for you.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Contact local trading standards – they may be able to use approved 'call blocking' technology.

The Blane Valley Bulletin is published by Strathblane Community Council and distributed to all households in our community council area by a group of volunteers accountable to the Community Council. Contact us at contact@strathblanecouncil.org.uk