

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Mar/Apr 2022 No 88

The Ukrainian Crisis



Our amazing, friendly community will give a very warm welcome to any Ukrainian Refugees who arrive in our villages. It is heartening to see that refugees are being referred to as guests in official guidance.

Doing Something to Help

A small group of people met under the auspices of SCDT (charitable status if needed for local fundraising) to see how we can provide help and support, both to refugees and to those who offer their homes. We are also in contact with Stirling Council, and they have now received the guidance from the Scottish Government. It can be found through a link on Stirling Council's Ukraine page, it is a lengthy read but is helpful for those who wish to know more. Stirling Council are also producing frequently asked questions. They are already holding a support session for recently arrived guests to signpost for services, benefits and education.

It's a confusing situation, because there seem to be two schemes running for offering a home: the Scottish Government super sponsor scheme, and the UK scheme which people in Scotland are still encouraged to use.

Not everyone is able to offer their home, but lots of people are keen to help, whether it's befriending, providing transport, clothes or meals. The Kirkrooms have been offered as a place for refugees to meet up and socialise.

Getting Organised

Until the position is clearer it's very much a waiting game, but we really want to be ready to jump into action if needed. As a very first step we'd like to hold 2 registers: one for helpers, and one for those who've offered their home (this can be in confidence). There are around 15 people offering help so far and we're aware of 2 offering their home.

Please email scdt@strathblane.online to place your name on either register. We will then be able to contact you to provide any updates. We know that many communities are using Facebook to do this, but we know many of you don't use social media and we don't want to exclude anyone. Thank you.

News from the Surgery

Dr Gill Carmichael is retiring after 12 years at Edenkiln Surgery. We wish her a very happy retirement.

A new GP will be starting hopefully in the next few months. In the meantime, we will be operating with reduced staff numbers.

The Community Council would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Carmichael for her service to the village over the last 12 years and wish her well in her retirement.

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@strathblanecc.org.uk

Strathblane Community Council April Report

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Councillor Hutchison for attending and for her help over the last year.

Update on the Resilience Plan

The Resilience Plan is almost complete and has been accepted by Stirling Council. They have requested that we carry out a Risk Assessment and this is under way.

We have obtained a grant from Stirling Council to print copies of the plan and these will be distributed to every house in the Autumn.

Village Response to the Ukrainian crisis

We discussed what the village can do to support any refugees who come to our area. Details of what is happening are in the article on the front page of this bulletin.

Royal Jubilee

We discussed what we can do to celebrate as a village. We would like to have a community bonfire as we did for the

Golden Jubilee, and hope to ask the Football Club to help us to organise this.

The CC plans to give commemorative medals to each child in the Primary and Nursery classes. As we do not have funds available, we plan to ask other organisations in the village to contribute to these. Later in the year we will apply for a grant to purchase some decorative trees for the village. We would also like to encourage residents to hold street parties over the holiday weekend.

Elected member's report

Jane Hutchison reported that Briony Monaghan is the new head of education at SC.

There has been a further delay to the repairs of the Branshogle bridge which is now due for completion by the end of June. The repair of the Catterburn bridge is going out to tender in the next few weeks.

Locking Pole Access to King George V Park

The CC intend to reinstate the locking pole at the entrance to the King George V Park. If you think that you are entitled to hold a key, but do not currently have one, please get in touch with Julie Hutchison on 01360770791

Village Club News

We are delighted that the doors of our Village Club are once again open and ready to welcome back our regular groups and classes. This historic community hall is a fantastic facility within the village, and the perfect venue for all types of gatherings, meetings, parties or small weddings. Our web site is full of information, photos, booking forms, contact details etc. www.villageclub1911.org

The hall is managed by a friendly group of volunteers. Would you be interested in coming on board to help us? We have a short meeting once a month to ensure everything is running smoothly, and work on various projects throughout the year to keep the hall looking good. Our 2022 AGM (very short and friendly!) will be held on Wednesday 25th May at 7.30pm in the hall. Please feel free to come along and hear about our latest plans. If you would like any further information, please email us at strathblaneVC@gmail.com

Bowling in 2022

Following two years disrupted by covid, the club is reopening for a full playing season on Saturday 23 April. We welcome prospective members of all age groups to the club and will introduce them to this skilful game played in a friendly and welcoming environment. Bowling, despite its apparent simplicity, is an absorbing, challenging, but enjoyable sport imparting all the benefits of being outdoors in company and helping to improve fitness and mental wellbeing.

Monday evening club nights for mixed bowls play for all current and prospective members will start soon.

Throughout the season, other club competitions, friendly matches, for both men and ladies as well as inter-club competition in various leagues can be participated in. Add to this the social events arranged during the season and in the winter months you will find that membership is an enjoyable, fulfilling way to make and meet friends. We have licensed bar facilities which are open to non-playing members. Do come along any Monday at 6.30 or you can contact the club on 07920 121114 or e-mail: strathblanebowlingclub@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you.



King George V Playing Fields

What next for SCDT now the library is underway? SCDT members have agreed a list of work but there is one project that we have tried to tackle before that we would like your views and your help with. Are you or any friend or family member interested in sport and or physical activities? We know that there are lots of you who are. Our facilities in the village should be better.

King George V Playing Fields are “managed” by Stirling Council and protected by the Fields in Trust organisation. The area includes the play equipment in the playground for which SCDT, through Greenheart, obtained the funding and the playing field (football pitch). Stirling Council only cuts the grass monthly and does nothing to keep the area in good condition for sport. The pitch is currently not fit for purpose and Blanefield Thistle are at risk of losing the ability to host their home games. SCDT has carried out some drainage in the past under a licence from the Council but more needs to be done.

The Football Pavilion was built by a local benefactor 50 or more years ago and rent is paid to the Council for the land by Blanefield Thistle. It needs a lot of work done. There are grants available to improve the Pavilion but only if the facilities are available for the whole community.

We have met with representatives of Blanefield Thistle and we now need a conversation with the whole community.

1. Is there an appetite for more team sports on the playing fields for all ages?
2. Should the community manage the playing fields? We would need income to pay for better maintenance.
3. Should we purchase the playing fields or just purchase the land under the Pavilion?
4. Should we try to find funds to renovate or rebuild the pavilion for the community and encourage more outdoor activities/classes?

Please contact Blanefield Thistle at Blanefieldthistle@gmail.com, @blanefieldthistle (FaceBook), @blanefieldthistlefc (instagram), @BlanefieldTFC(twitter) or email scdt@strathblane.online to give your views or even better offer to help to get this bigger project moving.

First and foremost, Blanefield Thistle needs to be able to play home games at home this season.

Thomas Graham Library Update

In the next few weeks, you will start to see your library rise from the ground as all the foundation work is completed. The library will be owned and managed by Thomas Graham Library Ltd (TGLL) which is a wholly owned VAT registered subsidiary of Strathblane Community Development Trust. The library area will be leased to Stirling Council.



THOMAS GRAHAM LIBRARY LTD.

Although the construction still has a long way to go the Board of TGLL is now seeking input from the community to join the Board to develop the next phase of work which is exploring how best to operate the building to serve the wishes of the community. You will be turning the dreams of this amazing building into reality. We are looking for individuals with marketing and organisational skills, accountancy and finance skills and someone with strong links to the primary school, possibly from the Parent Council. This is an exciting opportunity to get involved in a groundbreaking project. It would look good on a CV too! If you are interested or know someone who might be, please email scdt@strathblane.online with your contact details and Iain Stewart, Chair of TGLL Board will be in touch.

<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 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 Pamela Lee 07801 417655 Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031 Kate Ramsden 07801 372588 Evelyn Macdougall 770757 Craig Melville 0780 301798</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 strathblanevc@gmail.com</p>



Fundraising For Ukraine

Your local scouting group, the 36 Forth Valley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts invite you to a fundraising afternoon.

Sunday 8th May 12-2pm at the GP carpark, Drumbrock Road

Come along to grow a sunflower! We'll be selling delicious home baking and sunflowers, and you can test your knowledge with our quiz.

All donations will be donated to Disasters Emergency Committee for their Ukraine Appeal

Dog Show and Duck Race



The Strathblane Scout Hall Committee are organising a dog show and duck race in Strathblane Park on Saturday 4th June 2022, 2pm until 4pm. Why don't you and your four-legged, furry friends join us for events such as Waggiest Tail, Handsomest Hound, Obedience, Dog That Looks Most Like Their Owner, Best Trick and more.

Rosettes will be awarded for every class and the dog with the most points overall will win a Best in Show trophy.

We will also have refreshments (dog and human!) and a raffle.

The afternoon will finish with a duck race on the Blane. Each class costs £2.50 to enter and you can enter as many as you like. Entry forms will be given to all the users of the Hall and will also be available at the Library. You can also enter on the day. We look forward to seeing you!

Wild and Wonderful Scotland

As part of Stirling Libraries Off The Book Festival, Strathblane library is hosting this event on Tuesday 24th May at the Kirkrooms 19:15-20:15 Free but limited to 20 tickets



Dom McCafferty Senior Lecturer,
Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health
& Comparative Medicine.
University of Glasgow

Simon Jones
Director of Environment and Visitor
Services - Loch Lomond and Trossachs
National Park

To book a ticket for this event - phone,

email, or visit Strathblane Library, Kirkrooms.

Tel: 01360 770737 Email: strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk

Walk With Us Sunday 22nd May 2022



Help us raise awareness & Funds for Women's Aid
with a walk up our favourite wee hill Dumgoyne!

Meeting 10am War Memorial, Blanefield

Helping women and children escape abuse and build
independent lives free from fear and violence
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-16



women's aid
until women & children are safe

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.