

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet May/June 2022 No 89

Local Resident Celebrates Her 100th Birthday



Marion was born in Edinburgh, the 2nd daughter of John Balfour Crawford who rose to become Treasurer of the Bank of Scotland between 1942 and 1952, and his wife Nan. They subsequently had 2 sons and all four siblings reached their 90th birthday! Marion attended school in Edinburgh and then Park School in Glasgow where she met her beloved husband Moreton when Park School girls were competing in a hockey match against Glasgow Academy boys! They became engaged in 1942 when Moreton suspended his university studies in St Andrews to join the Seaforth Highlanders and fight the Campaign in North Africa.

Marion joined the WRNS as a visual signaller in 1943 and served at West Hartlepool and Rosyth. She learned Morse Code which she can still demonstrate! Marion and Moreton married soon after war ended in 1945 and celebrated 63 years of a very happy and fulfilling life together. Their first year was spent in St Andrews when Moreton continued his studies, and he was the first returning student from the War to become a father when Rosemary was born in 1946! He graduated in Modern Languages and was appointed to a teaching role back at Glasgow Academy but during the post-war depression, they were encouraged to emigrate to Australia to join Marion's brother who stayed there at the end of the War.

Marion and Moreton and two children became Ten-Pound-Poms enjoying a 3-week voyage to Tasmania to begin a new life! They spent 3 years farming and teaching but decided to return to their roots in Scotland after the 3rd child, Tiki, was born. Moreton was welcomed back to Glasgow Academy and eventually became Head of the Modern Languages Department. Marion supported him in his work and travels abroad – taking 42 groups of Glasgow Academy boys (and latterly including Tiki's friends from Westbourne School for Girls!) to Europe every Easter and summer holidays, to enhance language skills – and have a lot of fun and sun in the process!

In retirement, they travelled further afield, visiting Australia and Canada on several occasions. Moreton and Marion developed a reputation for generous hospitality, entertaining staff from the Academy and especially new colleagues. Their summer garden parties and Christmas gatherings at their home in Bearsden were legendary. This continued after retirement when they would open their home at Netherblane to neighbours and friends, and Marion would produce endless delicious baking. Into her 80's, if not 90's, she also baked for the Strathblane Guild which met every Monday evening and in addition, she organised a bric-a-brac sale table to raise funds for the Kirk. Marion and Moreton both loved tennis and dancing -Scottish and ballroom - and displayed their prowess at the family gatherings at Crieff Hydro in the years following their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Marion was also an expert dressmaker and loved to crochet.

After Moreton's death in 2009, Marion joined her family on several ocean cruises including the Mediterranean, Norway and the Caribbean Islands. She loves sunshine and at the hint of a blue sky, would be outdoors basking in the warmth!

She managed to remain in her lovely apartment overlooking the loch in Blanefield, with support from Home is Best carers, until her 100th year. However, after recurrent falls, it was felt that the time had come in March of this year, for her to receive full time care and she has now settled comfortably at Blanefield House Care Home, just along the road from her flat. Her birthday party was an opportunity for all branches of the immediate family to celebrate her remarkable life. She is a lovely lady – gracious and giving, appreciative and loving, and as a supreme homemaker, has given her family the most valuable gifts of selflessness and generosity, and the means for all generations to come together and keep in touch across the miles of physical separation. It is fitting that all her surviving 3 children, 8 of her 11 grandchildren and all 8 great-grandchildren were present at the party. Marion is an example to us all and held in the highest regard by all those who have had the privilege to know her.



Strathblane Community Council AGM & June Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

AGM

The following office bearers were elected.

Chair – Julie Hutchison

Vice-Chair – Kate Ramsden

Secretary - Grace Edmonds

Treasurer – Evelyn MacDougall

Planning and Licensing - John Gray

JUNE MEETING

Matters arising

JH has had an email from Angela McGibbon. A works order has been issued for the cleaning of the electronic speed sign in the village. Money has been allocated for work on parking issues on Old Mugdock Road and Dumbrock Road.

JH had an email from Aileen May who is working with Ukrainian refugees. She asked if we could give her a small grant towards writing materials and books. JH replied that we do not have funds to provide a grant but that we would be happy to put an article about her work in the BVB and to co-ordinate donations from the public. Aileen replied today saying that she does not need donations just now but will contact us if she does in the future.

JH thanked Councillor Henke for keeping us updated on the Cuilt Road. JG and EM both commented that the council officers do not seem to understand that the issue is the safety of walkers. MV suggested that we should contact the Access Officer and JH will do this.

Police Report

Anti-social behaviour:

Constable Graham has been made aware of complaints regarding noise from events in the Village Club. No calls have been made to the police about these.

A male was issued with a recorded Police warning following a minor assault at a house on Cuilt Road.

A male was found in possession of cannabis at Queen's View car park and issued with a recorded police warning.

Road traffic:

There was an RTC on the A809 at Carbeth involving a motor cyclist and a pedal cycle. The pedal cyclist sustained serious injuries as a result.

Theft:

Tools were stolen from a house under renovation on Moor Road, Strathblane. Enquiries are continuing.

JH noted that the theft of the bucket from the digger at the Wildlife Sanctuary happened after the Police report was compiled.

Confirmation of Members

Two co-opted members, Pamela Lee and Craig Melville, have met the criteria to become full members and were duly elected to the Community Council.

Two local residents have offered to join the Community Council. We will send the relevant papers to them to complete over the summer break, with the intention to co-opt them at the September meeting.

Elected member's Report – Councillor Paul Henke

Tenders went out for the repair of the Catterburn bridge some months ago and are due back tomorrow. The Council will debate the tenders within a week to ten days. There will then be a public consultation on the work involved. The money for the repair has been fenced and the work is expected to take many months.

JG asked if Paul knew if the road surface on Kirkburn Drive is being replaced or if it is just the pavements. It seems as if the road surface will be patched but not resurfaced. The quality of road repairs in SC is very poor. JG said it would be useful if we knew if patching is a bad idea or if it is just poor workmanship. PH thinks we should ask for a site visit from Road Maintenance. He will email JH a list of Council Officers so that we know who to contact. JG asked if we should file a freedom of information request regarding payment for substandard work.

Date of next meeting - September 5th 2022

News from the Wildlife Sanctuary

The footpaths are now completed: one up the hill, and one to a gathering area, thanks to funding from SUEZ Communities Trust.

An entrance gate has been made by Keith Vass, and is about to be installed.

The wildflower meadow, an area 7 x 25 metres on the west flank of the hill, has been stripped of turf, ready for a perennial wildflower seed mix to be sown in September. This area will be protected by a rabbit fence.

Weeding of trees and hedge plants is ongoing, thanks to hard work by volunteers, to help the saplings survive competition from docks. Once they grow large enough to create shade, the docks will become less invasive.

The pond is not holding water at present. This is because there was a hot dry spell immediately after excavation which resulted in cracking of the clay lining. We are waiting for a long wet period before deciding whether the clay lining can be re-puddled or if we need to install an artificial liner.

Two seats made by Keith Vass will be placed at viewpoints at the top of the hill.

New fencing will soon be installed along the track side of the Sanctuary.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: OPEN DAY - SATURDAY 20th AUGUST , 1.00 - 3.00 pm

Jubilee Celebrations

The community Council decided that a community bonfire would be a fun way for village residents to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Edward Pickard generously offered the use of the horses’ field above the park so that the fire could be seen from the village. Wood was gathered at the bottom of the horses’ field and moved to the bonfire site on the top of the hill, a task made much easier with help from two stalwart volunteers from the Blanefield Thistle football team and Edward with his tractor.



The fire was lit at 7.30 on the evening of June 2nd and we were glad to see a large number of residents there to watch.

In addition to the bonfire several local organisations agreed to join us in giving a Jubilee medal to every child in the Nursery and Primary School. Later in the year we intend to plant some trees beside the new library as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy project.

The Community Council owes grateful thanks to Edward Pickard for helping to move the wood for the fire and for clearing the site the next morning. We are also very grateful to the two members of Blanefield Thistle who came along before their weekly training session to help us to move the wood. We would also like to thank the Edmonstone Hall, the Village Club, the Bowling Club, the Allotments society and the SCDT for their generous contributions to the cost of the medals.

Edmonstone Hall AGM and Committee Vacancies

The AGM of the Edmonstone Hall Management Committee is being held at the hall on the Wednesday 24th August at 8 pm. Anyone from the village is welcome but we would particularly like to encourage anyone who could help us with the running of the hall. The duties are not onerous, but they currently rest on very few of us. The Hall is well used and financially viable. It forms a vital facility for many activities in the village from Lynda Turner’s dance to the Pipe Band. If you are interested in helping come along or contact Chris or Kim on info@edmonstonehall.co.uk

<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@strathblanecc.org.uk or via our website at www.strathblanecc.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>

Support for Ukrainians

Ukrainian families continue to arrive in our area, although still in quite small numbers.

The volunteers in the Support Group will hold an information session with Gun Organ who works with the Refugee Council on June 24th at 7.30 in the library. It is hoped that this will allow host families to get advice and information on how best to help their guests settle into our area and to ask any questions they may have.

A meeting for hosts and guests in the Blane valley area was held in Killearn Village hall on June 6th. There were interpreters available and representatives from Stirling Council who provided information about help available for our guests and where they can access this.

Margaret Vass attended a Teams meeting with Stirling Council on June 8th. The only other group attending was Callander CC represented by the chair, Susan Holden. Pauline Roberts organised the meeting that was attended by Jonathan Sharp (leading on Ukrainian refugees) and Lesley Gallagher his boss.

There are 50 hosts in Stirling so far but not all have guests. These are mainly through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Guests are predominantly in Doune and Dunblane. Stirling Council has no control over any matching through the super sponsor scheme. There are hold ups with the disclosure scheme as many prospective hosts aren't getting their paperwork correct. Once correct, disclosures checks are quick.

There is a Facebook group, Stirlingshire Support for Ukraine set up by folk in Doune. It's regularly updated and some of the Strathblane group will join the group and encourage others to do so too. The drop-in sessions are going well and in response to requests from guests will also start to have workshops on topics such as housing and driving. Bus passes for guests are also being rolled out.

In the main hosts are helping their guests claim universal credit etc without help from Stirling staff. They were interested in Gun's talk and wondered if that could be advertised more widely say in Killearn and Balfron. Margaret has been in touch with Aileen May in Killearn, who is organising help with language and they will chat when she returns from holiday. Kippen is organising a hub but like us only has 1 family. Aileen thinks that the Kirkrooms could be a hub for our wider area for Ukrainians to meet up regularly.

STRATHBLANE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU



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.

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

This issue is published with the anonymous but much-appreciated support of a local resident.



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