

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Nov/Dec 2022 No 91

Jo Waterfield

Jo Waterfield, who died on 28th September, was a much loved member of our community, who was involved in so many groups and activities in the villages. Jo, along with several others, brought about Strathblane Out of School Care, identifying the need for an after school care facility in the village, applying for funding and grants and sourcing premises. It opened in October 2004 and is still going strong today! Many parents, myself included, could not have worked without the wonderful SOSC!

She was involved in setting up Balfron Barracudas swimming club for young people and was on the committee for many years.

Jo was on the allotment committee, and was one of the first to have an allotment. She enjoyed getting to know other committee members and allotment holders, and was grateful for the knowledge and skills passed on to her. I was grateful for the broad beans and other goodies she passed on to me!

Jo had the idea of establishing a wildlife area on the soon to be vacated horse arena. The field was often flooded and she thought it would be an ideal spot to encourage water fowl, birds and other wildlife. Her idea was taken forward by a band of volunteers who have worked hard planting trees, laying paths and drains and has become the Wildlife Sanctuary.

She campaigned to get a better service from electricity companies to Station Road/Blane Crescent areas of the village. As residents there know only too well, the area was subjected to frequent power cuts. She campaigned to get support regarding the contamination of the gardens in Blane Crescent, caused by the print works and was active in pursuing Stirling council for support to prevent flooding in the area after a friend's home was badly damaged. Her suggestion to Adopt a drain was not universally popular, but she did her bit to ensure drains were clear of leaves.

Jo was often described by people as a 'force of nature', and it would be hard to argue with this! While unwell, she continued to raise money for McMillan by walking 300 000 steps in March 2021 and for Strathcarron Hospice by organising a very successful sale of secondhand clothes in August 2020. She had even planned to hold a McMillan Coffee morning in September this year. Despite it being cancelled due to her declining health, she still raised over £400!

Jo was indeed a force of nature, but above all, she was a Mum to Patrick and Connie, mother-in-law to Neel, daughter to Barbara, and Hugh, sister to Chris and Phil, and friend to many. Her love of travel allowed her not only to see many places but to gather friends from all corners of the globe. We were all honoured to be able to call her a friend, and we will miss her dreadfully.

She would want us all to continue to make our village and the world we live in a better place, and I for one will try. Perhaps when you drop your child at Barracudas, or collect them from SOSC, perhaps when you walk past the Wildlife Sanctuary or the allotments or drop off your recycling, you'll think of Jo. And maybe when you see a piece of litter, you'll pick it up, or when leaves have collected on a drain, you'll clear them away, and Jo will smile!

Jane McCallum



Christmas Lights Switch On

The Community Council is pleased to announce that we are returning to our traditional Christmas tree light up this year.

It will take place on Friday December 9th at 6.30pm in the Village Club and the usual mince pies and mulled wine will be available. We hope that the Dumbarton Wind Ensemble will be able to join us with festive music. There will be a donation box at the door as usual.

The tree is being supplied by Duff trees and we are very grateful to them for donating it again this year



Strathblane Community Council September Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

JH welcomed everybody and informed the meeting that Craig Melville had resigned. She thanked him for his work on the CC.

Matters arising:

JH had received an email from SC about the new cemetery. They will only begin consultation once they are sure that Gladman will not lodge an appeal. We believe that they have indeed done so. She has also had an email regarding the reopening of the village toilets. SC will need to find money to refurbish the block but it has now been added to SC's surplus property list so no funding is available. The council would prefer it to be done via asset transfer.

We have also heard from SC about the provision of charging points in the village. We are still on the list once further funding becomes available and the library car park is the obvious place.

JH and GE spoke to Donna Mills about new playground equipment funded by the new houses at Graham Lambie Brae. She suggested three possible items of equipment and the school pupils voted for a Bird's Nest swing. This will be installed in due course.

JH spoke to SC about the bus shelter opposite Ballewan Crescent, which is due to be replaced. The work on this will be carried out by March.

Urgent Assessment Unit

There is a new Urgent Assessment Unit at Forth Valley Hospital. The practice can make a direct referral to the unit to take pressure off A & E.

We still have two vacancies on the CC. Come and join us.

Date of Next Meeting - December 5th 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Club

Road Update – Good News

The Community Council has recently been informed that the Scottish Government is reducing the 30mph speed limit in all areas to 20 mph. To this end Stirling Council will install new speed limits early next year.

The new 20 mph limit will apply to the whole of Scotland and will include A roads. As a result the A81 will reduce to 20mph through the village from Ballewan Crescent to the current 30mph south of Dumbrock Road. We have asked Stirling Council for clarification that the new speed limit will be extended to beyond Graham Lambie Brae.

Following complaints from residents about dangerous driving and parking the council has agreed to carry out work at the junction of Old Mugdock Road and Dumbrock Road. The proposal is to widen the pavement to 2 metres from the corner of Dumbrock Road to just before the Co-op and to raise the kerb appropriately. They also plan to install planters along the edge of the pavement. These will be planted and maintained by the Community Council. This work will be carried out in the current financial year

Thank You!

Thank you to the 30 or so people who turned-out to the recent Black Market gig at the Village Club. After a 2-year hiatus, the local band played a full 1 1/2 hour set of original material with post-gig comments including , 'wow, the Avant- Garde comes to Strathblane!', 'excellent visuals & guitar noise', 'mmmm...nice tough beats' and 'help....my brain hurts! This free event raised £90 in donations towards Ukrainian humanitarian aid. Next gig in the New Year - watch this space....

Strathblane Heritage – Dates for Your Diary

If you aren't already one of our 65 members, why not make joining Strathblane Heritage Society one of your New Year's resolutions for 2023? It's still only £5 a year. There's plenty to look forward to:

Monday 16 January, Vintage Film Night. Come and see ladies in long skirts scaling Jenny's Lum, the birth of the NHS at Killearn Hospital, Glasgow trams in 1902, the launch of the Bennie Railplane in Milngavie and even Queen Victoria herself.

Monday 20 February, The Mystery of Lennoxton's Crashed German Bomber. Alistair Fleming recounts his investigation into this little-known incident and the extraordinary friendship that developed between local residents and the widow of one of those killed and buried there.

Monday 20 March, Annual General Meeting, plus Bring & Show Event at which members will show objects relating to local history and tell the stories behind them.

All meetings at the Village Club at 7.30pm. £2 for guests. Free refreshments.

We are also planning an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Society. And we are hoping to launch our new website. In addition, we are looking at the idea of a Strathblane Heritage Trail. Come and join us!

Enquiries to strathblane.heritage@btinternet.com or phone 01360 770750

The Thomas Graham Library

Handover

The Thomas Graham Community Library has reached a very significant milestone!

The wonderful building will be handed over to Thomas Graham Library Ltd (TGLL) by Flemings Builders on Friday 25th November. TGLL is a subsidiary of Strathblane Community Development Trust (SCDT). The community will become the owner of the building. We can hardly believe it! Landscaping will begin on Monday 28th November.

There is no opening date yet but it's likely to be early 2023.

We have agreed a long lease with Stirling Council which is just waiting for final signatures at which point they will begin the fit-out of the library which is funded by the Council. The library itself will be run by the Library Service and our librarians. Opening hours will be the same. There are 2 community rooms which will be available to hire 7 days a week.

Running The Library

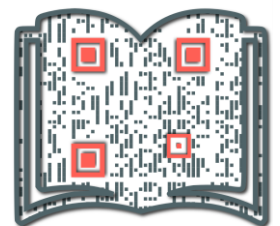
The building will be run in partnership with the Council and the Community. We have already asked for volunteers to come forward and help and some have done so. We envisage a Community Library Operating Group with representatives from the Council, TGLL, SCDT and the Community.

We also wish to establish a library community rooms management committee to run the rooms and we are looking for volunteers to take these facilities forward. Income is needed to fund the running costs of the building which we share with the Council. So, volunteers please, to begin this exciting new venture! We need you! contact: scdt@strathblane.online

New Opportunities

We are now getting ready to offer some courses in the library, in collaboration with Strathclyde University. If there is anything you would like to do, or think about doing, please fill in the enclosed paper questionnaire and return it to us in the Kirk Rooms or to the Village Club. Alternatively, there is a QR code here, which means you can do it all from your smartphone.

Get ready to learn something new!



Christmas Post

Get your local Christmas cards delivered by the Strathblane Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. Post boxes and collection tins will be located in the library and in Vishnu's ShopSmart from the beginning of December. Last post 16th December. Suggested donation 25p/ card. Funds raised go towards running the Scout Group.

Strathblane primary school and nursery Christmas Fair is back!

Friday 2nd December 18:00-20:30. Live music, stalls, kids games, face painting, Santa's grotto, mulled wine and refreshments. All welcome. Tickets available at the door: Adults £3 Kids free. All proceeds will go towards fundraising for mathematical resources for the school

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

Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary

Volunteers Needed to plant trees on both the following dates:

Saturday 26th November - 10.00 am and Saturday 14th January - 10.00 am

Please try to arrive by 10.00 to take advantage of training in tree planting and latest information about the Sanctuary. Please if possible bring a spade (plus a garden fork on the 26th November) and a club hammer or mallet if you have one. Our planting days last winter were a great success with many volunteers of all ages. We achieved a great deal and everyone enjoyed the experience of planting trees and socialising. So don't miss these dates!! Your help is needed in creating this, your community space.

Good News!

Our grant application to Clachmannan & Stirling Environment Trust was successful, so funding is secured for tree and hedge plants, new fence along the track boundary, interpretation boards, covered notice at entrance, and living willow hide.

Pond, Wildflower Area and Footpath

Plentiful rain has kept the pond well filled, and even flowing beyond its original boundaries. It's possible that this will gradually encourage silt to accumulate and seal the pond base, in which case a liner would not be required. An assessment will be made in the Spring. There is germination on the strip sown at the top of the hill in September. It will be exciting to see which plants appear in the Spring.

Volunteers created spade drains on either side of the path to drain off excess water in heavy rain, and so prevent the erosion of the fine (and expensive!) whin dust which surfaces the path. Well done to those who pushed heavy barrows of the dust uphill to refill places which had been eroded!!

Paths Development Group

You may have noticed path maintenance going on around the football field and allotments area.

It's the work of the Paths Development Group, a sub-group of the Strathblane CDT. It was behind the development of the Gary Wright Way (GWW) and the extension to Station Road, and keeps an eye on other paths in the village.

The main thing we've done recently is protecting existing assets including the GWW from increasingly frequent flood rains: one of the consequences of building infrastructure is it needs maintaining, otherwise in 20 years' time more funds are needed. The group consists of eight or nine stalwarts but can always use more: we meet every couple of months, and have maintenance sessions, usually on weekend mornings.

We recently had a grant for maintenance and will be looking for more funding for feasibility studies, including for the possible rebuild of the path down from the stables, and a walking route to Loch Arding nature reserve.

Those on Facebook will have seen my notes – that's my main way of communicating – but if you want to know more, come along to a meeting. You can find me via Messenger or email me: baynesania@gmail.com

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, Evelyn Macdougall 770757, Rob Davies 771921, Pamela Lee 07801 417655, Grace Edmonds 770800, John Gray 771031, Kate Ramsden 07801 372588, Eleanor Balfour

Additional Sources — Community website: www.strathblane.online

Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; & the Facebook Strathblanefield Page.

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.

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