

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

*The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Sept/Oct 2022 No 90*

## Strathblane Heritage Society

Journalist and broadcaster Sally Magnusson kicked off the Strathblane Heritage Society's 2022-23 season on 19 September with a fascinating and very well-received talk about her second novel, *The Ninth Child*, which focuses on the building of the Loch Katrine to Milngavie Aqueduct and the folklore of the Trossachs.

Sally's event, which was preceded by a short tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, was the first of six the society plans to run over the winter, on the third Monday of each month, with the exception of December. All meetings are at the Village Club and begin at 7.30pm.

On **17 October Dr Murray Cook**, Stirling County Archaeologist, will give an illustrated talk about the **Battle of Mugdock (AD 750)**, a famous turning point in the struggle between the Britons of Strathclyde and the invading Picts from the north. There is much debate about the true location of the battle. Some believe it took place close to Boards Farm on the Gowkstone track above our village.

On **21 November, Nick Hawkins** of the Killearn Community Futures Company will give a talk about the creation of the much-admired **Killearn Heritage Trail** and the challenge of creating a similar project in Strathblane. On **16 January** we hope to run an **evening of vintage films** hired from the **Moving Image Archive** based at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall.

As well as our meetings, Strathblane Heritage plans to develop an exciting new website, incorporating an extensive archive of local photographs and post-cards, articles of local interest, interviews with village seniors and news of forthcoming events. The committee is keen to recruit someone with relevant experience to help us create and run this facility. We need to raise funds to support this venture. The first such event will be a **70s Disco** on **Saturday 19 November** at the Village Club from 8pm to 11.30. So dig out those flares, flowery shirts and mini skirts and come groove with us! Tickets are £12 and can be booked on [strathblane.heritage@btinternet.com](mailto:strathblane.heritage@btinternet.com) and bought from Strathblane Library (currently in the Kirk Rooms). Annual membership remains at a bargain £5. Individual events: £2 for non-members. Inquiries: [strathblane.heritage@btinternet.com](mailto:strathblane.heritage@btinternet.com)

## The 2022 Stirling Council Residents' Survey is officially underway.

Your View" will give people living locally the chance to have their say on satisfaction levels with the Council and its services, following on from the last survey in 2019.

The survey is open to every Council resident, as well as those who work or study in the Stirling Council area. The survey will run until 20 October and is accessible via [Engage Stirling](#), or via direct link at <https://bit.ly/ResidentsSurvey2022>. Paper copies will also be available in local libraries.

## "How to Protect Your Property for Future Generations." The Edmonstone Hall October 5<sup>th</sup>

This seminar will cover the following topics:

- The different types of Wills and Trusts
- Recent changes to Inheritance Tax that may affect you
- How to legally keep more of your assets in the family
- Whether "signing the house over to the kids" is a good idea
- The critical importance of Powers of Attorney
- Learn the money-saving tips that some solicitors will not tell you
- Long-term care- can anything be done to protect your Assets.

We will be doing the same talk 3 times throughout the day at 10am, 2pm and 7pm.



# Strathblane Community Council September 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

## **SEPT MEETING**

### **Matters arising:**

JH contacted Stephen Bly at SC to ask for a meeting with the Access Officer regarding the issues with the rubble infill on the edges of Cuilt Brae, and the danger it poses to walkers and vehicles. Stephen has suggested we arrange an onsite meeting. The Carbeth Hutters are also keen to be involved in the meeting.

Resilience Plan/Household Emergency Plan – a final version has been agreed for the 2-page excerpt of the Resilience plan, an Emergency Planning checklist for residents, which is included with this bulletin. Residents can personalise the plan with their own contact details.. If/when the map becomes available it will be attached to a later version, or to the downloadable version for the website

### **Co-option**

Rob Davies had sent his apologies in advance of the meeting but was happy to be co-opted in his absence. The co-option was approved unanimously and we look forward to properly welcoming him to the next meeting.

### **Name of new road**

A future resident of the new development at Devil's Elbow raised concern over the length of the name of Graham Lambie Brae and asked if it could be shortened. We replied that the name was agreed by way of a poll of residents, and this had been the most popular choice. CC will therefore not be taking this any further, and the original enquirer we have to pursue directly with SC.

## **New cemetery**

With the proposed new build 'Gladmans' now fully rejected by the Scottish Ministers, the committee agreed it should push Stirling to progress the new cemetery extension, on the site designated in the Local Development Plan. A survey 5 years ago confirmed only 5 years left within the current cemetery, and there are not many plots left. MV recalled the 2021/22 budget included Capital Expenditure for the new cemetery. We know the process will take some time, so agreed the urgency in getting things started now.

## **Village toilets**

The committee has been made aware that Killearn still has its public toilets, PH confirmed Balfron does too. As the Kirkhouse has withdrawn its status of providing facilities to non-customers the need for public convenience is pressing.

MV confirmed the SCDT has considered taking it on as an asset transfer in the past and ensured that the power supply remained in place when the toilets were closed, in the hope it could be re-established.

## **Charging points**

We discussed the provision of Charging Points for electric vehicles as the village doesn't have any, and it never seems to have been proposed by SC? The new library carpark may have space to take one, and outside the church has previously been discussed. PH will take back to SC to enquire.

## **Telephone boxes**

A request to put a business advertisement on the noticeboards has raised the question of available space for advertising within the village. We discussed whether the two telephone boxes could have boards installed for this, probably maintained/kept up to date by the CC? A resident had also enquired about using them for surplus plants/non-perishable food etc. The committee will suggest the idea on social media and see what the feed-back is from residents. We would also need a joiner/handy person to rig up the advertising boards and fit shelves

**Date of next meeting - October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022**

## **Start Up Food Bank**

Strathblane Parish Church is supporting the work of Start Up Stirling Food Bank as part of their Harvest Day celebration on Sunday 16th October. If anyone would like to drop off donations, there will be boxes available in the porch of the Kirk Rooms from 1st to 15th October during the hours the library is open. The items which Start Up Stirling have specifically requested are: ready meals (instant noodles/pasta), cup a soup, UHT milk, tinned veg, toilet rolls, jam and spreads, tinned fruit, tinned desserts, tinned tomatoes, cooking sauces.

## **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](mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk)

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

## Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary Report September '22

OPEN DAY – raised £900 through raffle, stalls, donations. Thanks to all who supported the event with their interest and enthusiasm. POND – excavated in April. Waiting till next spring to see if water level holds. A liner may be needed but this is a costly item. FOOTPATHS – constructed in April and entrance gate in place. WILDFLOWER AREA – a strip at the top of the hill has been weeded, raked, sown with a wildflower mix, and protected with rabbit-proof fence. Thanks to hard work by volunteers. FUNDING for all this work has been provided by SUEZ Communities Trust, for which we are very grateful.

RAGWORT – an important food for wildlife but poisonous to horses/cattle if dried. We are working together with the stables to limit spread into the horse field. Volunteers have pulled out ragwort plants in a 3-metre-wide strip along the horse-field fence.

WINTER/SUMMER PLANS – more tree and hedge planting, a new fence along the track boundary, interpretation boards, covered notice at entrance, plant a living willow hide. All dependent on funding. An application to a funding body is pending.

VOLUNTEERING – there will always be opportunities to help with maintaining the site according to the season. Winter/spring – tree and hedge planting. Spring/summer – clearing vegetation around young trees, checking tree guards, replacing broken stakes. Summer – pulling ragwort along the horse-field fence. As the needs arise, we will offer dates for volunteers to come forward.

MOTHS – A member of Butterfly Conservation, living in Bearsden, who has been studying butterflies and moths for nearly 40 years is investigating the moths found at the Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) and surrounding area. At the start of 2022 there was just one record for the 1km grid square containing SWS (NS5472) - an angle shades moth from 2021 at Dumbrock Road. Just over 20 species have been recorded for 'Strathblane', but only a dozen had an accurate location (at the edge of moorland above the village). So, he is looking for more records. He is running a moth trap at SWS about once a month. The moths are attracted to a light and drop into the trap, which is examined the following morning. They are released after identification. He will also be doing some daytime searches (not all moths fly at night). So far only a small number of species have been seen at the site, but numbers should increase later. If you see any moths in the Blanefield/Strathblane area he would be very pleased to hear from you. Ideally send a photograph, together with location (grid reference, postcode or description) and date seen to [Sutcliffe\\_r@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Sutcliffe_r@yahoo.co.uk).

### Scouts Thank You for Fundraising For Ukraine

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the Grow a sunflower, Family quiz (won by the Faulkner Family) and home baking fundraising event for Ukraine held in May, we raised nearly \*£1,250\* with everyone's generous donations and some Gift Aid!

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

A special thank you to everyone who volunteered, those who baked, Strathblane Surgery for use of their car park and those that came along to support on the day and 'The Wee Spuds' group.

From your local scouting group, the 36 Forth Valley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

### Free Gig - Strathblane Village Club, 8-10.30pm, Sat 29th Oct, 2022.

**The Black Market** - experimental alt.rock, beats & visuals.

**This is a charity gig** - all donations towards Ukrainian humanitarian aid. BYOB.

If any other local musicians interested in playing, please contact [guykeating40@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:guykeating40@yahoo.co.uk).

### For Information

Postage stamps without a bar code will not be valid after February 2023 and there is no exchange process.

Paper £50 and £20 pound notes will no longer be legal tender after the end of Sept 2022 but banks will continue to accept them.



<p><b>STIRLING COUNCIL</b> Councillor's Surgeries are restarting at 7pm Dec.6 at the Village Club. Report Faults at <a href="mailto:info@stirling.gov.uk">info@stirling.gov.uk</a> or 01786 404040 Updates at <a href="http://www.stirling.gov.uk">www.stirling.gov.uk</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GET IN TOUCH</b></p> <p>SCC Email at <a href="mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk">contact@strathblanec.org.uk</a> or via our website at <a href="http://www.strathblanec.org.uk">www.strathblanec.org.uk</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Your Community Councillors</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Julie Hutchison 770791 Andrew Thompson 770838 Eleanor Balfour 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: <a href="http://www.strathblane.online">www.strathblane.online</a> Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; &amp; the Facebook Strathblanefield Page.</p>
<p><b>Strathblane Community Development Trust</b> Email: <a href="mailto:scdt@strathblane.online">scdt@strathblane.online</a> Website: <a href="http://www.strathblane.online">www.strathblane.online</a> We deliver projects with grant funding to enhance the village. Please consider joining if you aren't already a member.</p>	<p><b>Enquiries and Bookings Contacts</b> Edmonstone hall Kim Jones via <a href="mailto:info@edmonstonehall.co.uk">info@edmonstonehall.co.uk</a> The Village Club Check schedule at <a href="http://www.villageclub1911.org">www.villageclub1911.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:strathblanevc@gmail.com">strathblanevc@gmail.com</a></p>

## LIBRARY NEWS

### **CAB Energy Advice Session, Library Kirkrooms, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11am.**

Gary Egan, Energy Adviser with CAB Stirling will give an overview of areas of concern people may have regarding energy bills and usage, and will be able to take questions on energy use issues. Gary writes: *I am used to handling all sorts of billing/energy queries with the emphasis on energy usage reduction, which enables cost to be more managed. More and more people are coming to our service due to rising energy costs and I'm happy to handle all queries no matter how large or small. Energy literacy is very high on most people's agenda and hopefully I can answer most questions, no matter how trivial it may seem. Do please come along to the main hall of the Kirkrooms with any concerns or queries you may have.*

**Citizens Advice Sessions at Library Kirkrooms**, every second Thursday 1-3pm. Next sessions 29<sup>th</sup> Sept, 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Contact Chris Kinnaird T: 07498925157, E: [Chris.Kinnaird@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk](mailto:Chris.Kinnaird@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk)

**Strathblane Library Book Group**, which met pre covid every third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, will be restarting soon.

Please contact [strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk) for details.

**Strathblane Library Film Discussion Group** meets first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm to discuss a film we have all watched.

Please contact the library for further information [strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk)

**Book Week Scotland** (Nov 14 – 20) advance notice. Scottish author James Robertson ('And The Land Lay Still', 'The Testament of Gideon Mack', 'News of the Dead') will be at Strathblane Library Kirkrooms on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November for an evening talk. More details to follow.

## **Strathendrick Film Society is back!**

Put the small box in the corner of your living room aside and come and experience the big screen and big sound of a shared cinematic experience at a local venue. The Society will again start screening a full programme of films at Balfron High School, starting on 7th October, with *Belfast* - a coming-of-age drama written and directed by Kenneth Branagh that follows a young boy's childhood in Belfast, during The Troubles. The full programme continues through to the end of March with a variety of films to appeal to all tastes and genres: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Incredible Journey*, *The Dressmaker*, *Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid*, and finally *1917*. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website [www.strathfilmsoc.org.uk](http://www.strathfilmsoc.org.uk) or obtained from Killearn Village Hall, Fintry Sports Club or the libraries in Balfron, Drymen or Strathblane or by emailing [strathfilmsoc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:strathfilmsoc@yahoo.co.uk). Memberships are: standard £20, concession £15, students (16-21) free, single night £5. Refreshments will be available beforehand.

## **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.