

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet May/June 2023 No 94

Evelyn Jean McNair Macdougall

8th October 1950 – 21st April 2023

Members of our Community Council were very sad to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of our Treasurer Evelyn Macdougall. After a short illness, surrounded by her family, and with the support of a care team – including the District Nurse, McMillan Nurses and Strathcarron Hospice - Evelyn died peacefully at home, at Carbeth Guthrie, on 21st April.

Evelyn had served on the Community Council since 2017, when she was elected to represent the residents of Carbeth Guthrie. In addition, she took on the duties of Treasurer in 2018. Keeping her neighbours informed about ongoing issues, proposals and developments, together with ensuring that their views were heard at the Community Council and in Stirling Council was a responsibility that Evelyn undertook extremely diligently. In addition to taking on the duties of Treasurer, Evelyn worked with Grace Edmonds to compile the Blane Valley Bulletin.

Evelyn was a pragmatic, thoughtful and extremely caring person who was always keen to do what she could to help other members of the community. She demonstrated all of these qualities over many years and in different contexts - as an energetic member of the Play Group Committee when her daughters were young; as a highly valued and respected teacher; and a hard working member of the Community Council.

Evelyn lived in Carbeth Guthrie all of her life. She was married to Moray and together they built their first home there - Naircott. In her retirement, they built a new house on an adjacent plot, which they called Greenacres. Evelyn was a loving wife to Moray; Mum to Sarah, Ruth and Anna; and, Grandma to Caline, Zaren, Kuzey and Myrtle.

In her professional life she was a caring and highly respected primary school teacher. She taught at Craigton School in Milngavie and Cleddan's Primary in Drumchapel. After gaining a further qualification to enable her to work with children with additional support needs, Evelyn completed her teaching career in this supportive and caring role at Hillhead Primary School in Glasgow. Colleagues and parents agree that Evelyn contributed greatly in making a significant and positive difference to the lives of the many of the children in her care.

Evelyn touched and enhanced the lives of many and will be sadly missed.

What do you want the future of the National Park to look like?

By Gerry McGarvey, Stirling Councillor for Forth & Endrick Ward and Board Member for Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. Strathblane residents and business owners are being encouraged to take part in a conversation about the future of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. With significant changes affecting communities in and around the National Park, including climate change and nature loss, a consultation is underway about how best to face up to these challenges in the years to come. In April, a new Draft National Park Partnership Plan was published as a conversation starter. The draft plan puts forward proposals for responding to some of the key issues affecting people and places in the National Park. These include the impacts of a warmer, wetter climate, local housing, low emissions travel and how to reverse the decline in nature in the Park.

Now the National Park Authority wants to hear from everyone who has an interest in the National Park - including those who live outwith or on the outskirts of the Park area – about their experiences, barriers and ideas for the future of the Park. You have until Wednesday 19th July to have your say and that can be as little as a single comment about public transport options to visit the area or more detailed thoughts on how to future-proof places in the National Park against the impacts of climate change and nature loss.

To take part in the conversation about the future of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, visit www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/future



Strathblane Community Council June Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Prior to our meeting on Monday 12th June SC held an inaugural meeting where the following Office Bearers were appointed.

Chair : Julie Hutchison

Vice-Chair: Kate Ramsden

Secretary: Grace Edmonds

Treasurer: Pamela Lee

Planning Correspondent: John Gray

Welcome from Chair

Julie Hutchison welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the new Community Council

She spoke about Evelyn and her work for the CC as treasurer and in helping to co-ordinate and deliver the BVB. We will miss her and our thoughts are with Moray and their daughters.

JH also recorded her thanks to Chris Edmonds for his work in continuing to produce the BVB.

Meeting Venue This is still under discussion.

Portfolio Holders

The following members of the CC were elected as Portfolio holders:

Village Club: Grace Edmonds

SCDT: Julie Hutchison and Andrew Thompson

Mugdock Management Committee: Julie Hutchison

Roads: Robert Davies

Planning Deputy: Graeme Kemsley

Police Report

Police Scotland have charged a driver with Careless Driving after driving at speed towards the traffic calming measures on Glasgow road, overtaking waiting vehicles and failing to give way to an oncoming vehicle that had to take evasive action to avoid a collision.

Councillors Surgeries

Paul Henke and Rosemary Fraser have indicated that they intend to resume the Councillors surgeries before each CC meeting. They will attend on rotation.

Date Of Next Meeting: September 4th 2023

Thank you from the Community Council

The Community Council would like to thank the Wee Spuds group for their hard work weeding and replanting the tubs around the village. They very kindly donated their extra plants to the new planters on Old Mugdock Road and helped to plant these also.

The village looks lovely with the bright tubs.

News from the Paths Group

The CDT paths development group has been working behind the scenes to see if we can capitalise on the works carried out by Scottish Water along the old railway line north of Station road, past Cuilt Farm towards Duntreath.

SW have put in a dry, hardcore road for about 1.7km which has taken us tantalisingly close - within about 900m - to realising a long-held ambition to link the Gary Wright Way through to the West Highland Way the other side of Dumngoyach, where it comes down the hill and itself joins the railway line. We're concentrating our efforts on this for now as it could give a low-level cycleable and accessible route right along the valley to near Killlearn and have started talks with councillors, SW and the local MSP to see how things can be taken forward.

The group will lead this project but anyone with time and energy to devote to it should get aboard - it could have a transformational effect. You can email me at baynesania@gmail.com if you want to contribute. Pile in with suggestions but please be prepared to shoulder some of the work too!! Richard Baynes, chair CDT Paths Development Group.

Strathblane Knitting Group

The Strathblane Knitting Group would like to thank the Kirkhouse Inn for allowing us to meet there for many months while the old library was being demolished and the new one built. We are now back in the library but appreciate the Kirkhouse enabling the group to keep going during that time.

GET IN TOUCH

SCC Email at contact@strathblanec.org.uk or via our website www.strathblanec.org.uk

Your Community Councillors

Julie Hutchison 770791 Andrew Thompson 770838 Rob Davies 771921 Pam Lee 07801 417655

Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031 Kate Ramsden 07801372588 Graeme Kemsley 07709 676766

Additional Sources Community Website www.strathblane.online

Library; Notice boards; 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 are not already a member.

Enquiries and Booking Contacts

Edmonstone Hall

Kim Jones via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk

The Village Club

Check schedule @ www.villageclub1911.org

Email: stathblanec@gmail.com

Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary Summer Update

Two beautiful oak benches have been installed at Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary in memory of Jo Waterfield and Philip Graves. Please take a moment to sit and enjoy the views and immerse yourself in nature. A huge thanks to Keith Vass for his hard work in creating them.

Our new willow hide is growing well and will be woven further at the end of summer.

The pond has totally dried up with the lack of rain, and we are fundraising for a pond liner to make the pond a year round habitat. Dates for your diary:

Summer volunteering day:

Saturday 29th of July 10am -2pm

Weeding and Ragwort Management

Bring along gloves, strong scissors, secateurs or shears

Spare tools will be available

Refreshments provided

Open day:

Sunday 27th August 11-3

-BB, Tea and cakes

-Stalls

-Face painting

-Games

-Bouncy Castle

For more events please keep an eye on our instagram and Facebook page "Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary" and for posters on the gate of the SWS.

RSHA Unveils New Strathblane Homes

Rural Stirling Housing association is delighted to have completed four newly built homes at Graham Lambie Brae. A handover ceremony with the first tenants to move, in took place on Monday June 26th. The 1 bedroom cottage flats are part of the wider Adams(Scotland) development.

Mark Griffith, Chair of RSHA, said that they wish the tenants every happiness in their new homes.

Margaret Vass, Chair of SCDT, said "these homes and tenants are most welcome in our village. Our 2019 Housing needs Survey indicated that homes to rent and low cost homes to buy are required to sustain our community."

RSHA is keen to hear from prospective tenants who wish to apply for housing in rural areas. The Association can be contacted on 01786 841101, by email at enquiries@rsha.org.uk or by writing to Rural Stirling Housing Association, Stirling Road, Doune, FK16 6AA

Strathblane Heritage

Strathblane Heritage is gearing up for a busy season:

- Monday 18 September, Sally Magnusson MBE will be talking about her latest novel, *Music in the Dark*.
- Monday 16 October Pat Thomson will give a talk entitled *The Fabric of Our Lives* about the printworks and bleachfields of the Blane and Endrick valleys.
- Monday 20 November, there will be an event about the construction of the Loch Katrine waterworks.

The Society has been busy over the summer preparing material for its website, which we hope to launch in September. As well as a library of historic postcards and photographs of the area, there will be essays on various aspects of local history, historic maps, old accounts of life in the parish and an alphabetical list of monumental inscriptions in Strathblane Churchyard and Cemetery up to 2005.



A special feature will be "slider pictures" in which viewers are invited to move the cursor across an old photograph to reveal how the same place looks today. Recently we had great fun recreating an iconic image from 100 years ago of 17 men on the "Auld Wives' Lifts", a geological curiosity on Craigmaddie Moor. The modern version



involves 17 women from the Ladies Scottish Climbing Club. The shot was taken by local photographer Stevi Jackson, who worked out the exact spot from which the original was taken and negotiated access with the local farmer.

We look forward to welcoming new and existing members in September when we'll be announcing details of how to have a chance of winning a £100 note donated by one of our members! All meetings are in the Village Club and start at 7.30pm. Annual membership is just £10, including tea and biccies.



It's been wonderful to welcome people to the fantastic new library and to register so many new members.

Summer Reading Challenge: This year's theme is **Ready, Set, Read** with a focus on reading about play, sport, and activity. The main challenge for is for **ages 4-11**, starts on Saturday 24th of June and runs until Saturday 26th of August. Children read six books over the summer, collect rewards and can then use these for free entry to some local attractions. Pop into the library to find out more and to sign up. 01360 770737 strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk

Other events / groups over the summer– contact the library for information.

Group	Date	Time	Details
Knit/ Stitch & Natter	Tues 27 th June, 11 th July then fortnightly	10.15-12.45	Every 2 nd Tuesday morning, just drop in.
Book Group	Wed 28 th June	7.30-9.30pm	Last meeting before summer break. Please note change of day and time. Contact the library to join after summer.
IT & Me	Tuesday 4 th July	10.30-12noon	Find out how to get ebooks/ eaudiobooks /emagazines online for free! IT volunteer available to help with this and general IT. Contact the library to book a slot.
Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau Drop in.	6 th & 20 th July.	2-4pm	CAB every 2 nd Thursday. Check with library beforehand that session running.
Badge Maker	Sat 15 th July	10.30-12 noon, drop in.	Pop in between 10.30-12 to make a sports themed badge. Free.

The Thomas Graham Community Library is also home to **two community rooms** with state-of-the-art Audio Visual and Video Conferencing facilities. Contact library, info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com or www.thomasgrahamlibrary.com

- Both rooms are available for hire, always irrespective of library opening hours, for business meetings, pop-up shops, yoga, training courses, or perhaps you have a skill you can teach!
- Rooms can be set up conference, cabaret, boardroom style or left free from seats. The maximum capacity is 40 people.
- Access to kitchen facilities
- Ad-hoc or standing bookings can be made on our website with preferential rates available for community groups.
- If you have any questions about our space please contact us using the details below.

Strathblane Community Development Trust News

SCDT through our subsidiary has delivered your new library. Thank you, again to all our donors, sponsors and volunteers. We now move onto to delivering more for you but that can't be done without your input. If we are to continue, we need many more members and volunteers. Visit our website: www.strathblane.online or email us: scdt@strathblane.online

Our Main Work

Funded by grants and donations
Delivered by volunteers
Thomas Graham Community Library
Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary
Paths Development and maintenance
Heritage Bothy in the churchyard
Blane Valley Allotments
Playground

Future Work subject to Volunteers

Playing fields and Pavilion
Public toilets
Housing to meet the needs of the villages
Edmonstone Hall refurbishment
Renewable Energy
Sustainability

How can you help?

Become a member or a Director
We need at least £2000 a year to operate
Membership costs a minimum of £5 per year
Standing Order preferred for regular income
Gift Aid gives us 25% extra

Membership and Donations

Essential for us to exist
Pays for running costs:
Public liability insurance for volunteers
Accounts examination
Membership of organisations for free support
Our website
Fundraising websites