

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Sep/Oct 2023 No 95



Are you tackling a local history project or looking for ancestors who lived here? Are you new to Strathblane and want to know more of its history? Maybe you are a local who enjoys trips down memory lane or likes browsing through old maps, photographs and postcards. If so, have a look at the website just launched by Strathblane Heritage: www.strathblaneheritage.org

For the past six months the SH committee has linked with Derek Townsend of Webreturn, who lives in Balfron, to gather as much material and as many images as we can to upload to the new website. We hope you like it!

The core of the site is the History & Heritage section, which is in three parts:

- A breathless dash through Strathblane's history from Dumgoyne's volcanic origins to the 2021 Census.
- A series of illustrated essays about various aspects of local history, including the Blane Valley Railway, Blanefield Printworks and Strathblane Parish Church. These draw on and augment the work of local historian Alison Dryden and Victorian antiquarian John Guthrie Smith. There are currently 19 essays, with plans to add at least six more. All suggestions welcome.
- Resources & Reminiscences. This section takes in documents and personal memories of life in Strathblane from 1796 until the 1960s. It includes all three Statistical Accounts of the parish (1796, 1841 and 1951) as well as Harry and Helen Arnold's delightful film *This is Our Parish*, filmed in 1957-58, and memories of the old school. It also takes in the lives and deaths of the 27 local First World War servicemen who appear on Strathblane War Memorial as well as some with local links who do not feature on the monument.

The Gallery is a fascinating archive of postcards and photographs of local views, buildings and people. It includes a "slider" feature that enables the user to move the cursor and see how some of the old images look today.

An important resource for family historians is the Monumental Inscriptions section, which includes the results of three separate surveys of Strathblane Churchyard and Cemetery. The Maps section has a variety of maps from Joan Bleau's 1654 image of the Land of Lennox to contemporary maps.

We are hoping to build the section entitled Poetry, Song and Literature. Already you can listen to the Scottish traditional music group Ossian's beautiful recording of the traditional ballad *The Braes of Strathblane*. The website also contains news of recent, current and future Events and a Contact Us facility.

Membership costs just £10 a year. This gives free entry to our six winter meetings between September and March. Visitors £3 per meeting. The next meeting is on Monday 16 October at 7.30 at the Village Club when Pat Thomson of Balfron Heritage Group will give an illustrated talk entitled *The Fabric of Our Lives* about the cotton industry in the Blane and Endrick Valleys. Membership is £10 a year. Visitors £3 per session.

News from the SCDT Paths Group

Progress is being made by the Community Development Trust's paths group on the idea of linking up the north end of the Gary Wright Way at Station Road, to the West Highland Way at Dumgoyach, based partly on the new Scottish Water track.

That covers 1.5 km of the 2.5km over which we want to put a good walkable, cyclable track, but there are challenges still on this section which will need a better surface, and a solution to crossing a long-established agricultural access previously bridged.

We have been talking to Scottish Water about basic permissions, and the possibility of them providing financial or in-kind help, and await their response. We have walked the route with an officer from the Government-funded paths-grant body Paths For all, and had a very positive response. The next step will be a survey of local views on whether the link is actually needed. We will also be talking to surrounding communities, and are trying to involve communities of interest such as walking and cycling groups from further afield. Once the survey is under way it'll be vital to get plenty of responses if we want it to go ahead, so watch this space!!

We completed a morning of maintenance work last month, with drains cleared and vegetation cut around the Station Road link.

Strathblane Community Council September Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

JH welcomed everybody to the meeting, especially the Representatives from Greens

Matters arising

JJ told the meeting that the CC meetings would continue to held at the VC and we will pay for these from the admin grant.

Co-option of new members

Ian Boardley and Eleanor Balfour have submitted their co-option paperwork to SC and the members present agreed that they will be co-opted as soon as possible.

Police Report

PC Matt McCammon has joined the Community Policing team to work with PC McNulty.

People continue to burrow under or climb the fences around the quarry at Mugdock Country Park despite a huge amount of money being spent on fencing. Numbers entering the water appear to have reduced, but it remains a very dangerous place.

A male died as a result of a road traffic collision. Enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances surrounding this tragic incident.

There was a road traffic collision involving three vehicles and damage to an exterior wall. The A81 was closed for a period as a result but fortunately no serious injuries were sustained.

There have been a number of reports of thefts/attempted thefts from potentially insecure cars. Please remember to secure vehicles.

A charity collection box was stolen from a commercial premises. Enquiries are ongoing to identify a male captured on CCTV.

The full Police Report is available on the CC website.

Representatives from Greens.

We had a very positive question and answer session with Omar Ahmed and Louise Moreland from Greens. The CC had raised questions prior to the meeting and Omar addressed these, sharing their reasoning for the current set up in the store. They are prepared to take on board what the residents would like to see on the shelves.

Local Place Plans

Members of the CC attended a Teams meeting with SC about the Plan. We already have a lot of evidence that we can use, but we need to produce a questionnaire for residents. The latest census data should be available soon. A resident asked if we would work on the plan jointly with the SCDT. We intend to do this. A resident asked if there is an outline time scale for working through the plan. We do not have this yet. JG said that residents are welcome to join us in formulating this. RF said that it is recommended that we use as many methods as possible to contact residents.

The final Plan has to be submitted by April 2025, so we have time to work on it.

Rosemary Fraser asked if we could let her know about any safe routes that may need work that are identified by residents. Paths were considered important in our last plan. The Paths Group will be looking at this

AOCB

Scottish Water will be removing the iron fence beside the Ash Track at the beginning of October.

JH will complete a survey from the Rural Stirling group on our behalf.

JH and GE met Alan Smith, our MP and raised the issue of which hospitals we can use and where ambulances will take residents. He promised to look into this and to liaise with Evelyn Tweed. JH will email regarding progress on this.

Date Of Next Meeting: October 2nd 2023

Thank you from the Community Council

At the September meeting Julie Hutchison thanked Greens for installing the defibrillator on the outside of the shop. It is monitored by the Trossachs Search and Rescue. This will be a great asset in the village, and we are very grateful to Greens for installing it so quickly.

Would you like to join us?

The CC is still one member short. If you would like to join us please get in touch by email or contact Grace Edmonds on 01360 770800.

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 or

Email: stathblanecv@gmail.com

"Satellite CLL" at Thomas Graham Community Library

Centre for Lifelong Learning

We are delighted to be delivering a small selection of our adult learning classes from the Thomas Graham Community Library.

SATELLITE CLL



Classes commencing this October:

- **Beginners Spanish**
(Fri - 10:30am - 12:30pm)
- **Beginners Italian**
(Mon - 10:30am - 12:30pm)
- **Family History Research: An Introduction**
(Tues - 1:00pm - 3:30pm)
- **Stress? Out!**
(Wed - 10:00am - 12:00noon)



Book today: mycll.strath.ac.uk

We are delighted to be delivering a small selection of our adult learning classes from the Centre for Lifelong Learning (University of Strathclyde) at the Thomas Graham Community Library this autumn.

Please visit the link below for more information or to book your class:

Satellite CLL | University of Strathclyde

Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary

Thank you to everyone who has attended our events so far. The Open Day was another great success thanks to your enthusiastic support and we raised an amazing £880. The first Nature Night was another sold-out success and we hope to bring you more in this vein soon. For now, the line up of events continues with our upcoming comedy night. Come and be entertained for the night for a good cause! Tickets are available in person at Shoptmart and the Thomas Graham library, by emailing us or at this link. posters on the gate of the SWS.



SWS AND SCDT PRESENT

STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT

TICKET

£20

EDMONSTONE HALL-BLANEFIELD

GLASGOW ROAD G63 9BP

FREE PARKING | BAR | RAFFLE PRIZES | FREE DRINK

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Friday 6 October

Doors 7pm, show starts at 8pm

LINEUP

Gary Little & Rosco McLelland plus more tbc

TO BOOK - TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SHOPSMART, LIBRARY OR
EMAIL STRATHBLANEWILDLIFESANCTUARY@GMAIL.COM



JOIN WEE SPUDS

JOIN CHILDREN OF ALL AGES TO MEET AFTER SCHOOL AT THE WEE SPUDS ALLOTMENT. YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO GROW FRUIT AND VEG AND HAVE FUN! TO JOIN US CONTACT KATE 07799 000470










Thomas Graham Community Library

01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk

Unless otherwise stated, all events are in the Thomas Graham Community Library. Please contact the library for further information / to book.

Day / date	Event	Time	Details
Thursdays from 21 st Sept	'Game on' for young people	3.15-4.15 (P1-3) 4.45-5.45 (P4-P7)	Board games/ card games. Places limited, please book in advance. Under 8s must be accompanied
Friday 22 nd Sept	Bookbug	2.30-3pm	Songs & stories for toddlers & pre-schoolers, all welcome. Free
Thursday 28 th Sept & fortnightly – (please check with the Library beforehand)	Stirling Citizens Advice Drop In	2-4pm	CAB information and advice, just drop in
Tuesday 3 rd Oct & every second Tuesday morning	Knitting / Stitching Group	10.15-12.45	All knitters/ stitchers welcome, just drop in
Tuesday 3 rd Oct	Film Group	7.30pm	Film discussion group.
Friday 6 th Oct	Bookbug at Fun Hut	10.30-11	Outdoor songs & stories for toddlers & pre-schoolers.
Friday 13 th October	Play, Talk, Read Bus	10-1 2-4pm	Play, Talk, Read bus in the Library Car park. Climb aboard Bertie the Bus for songs, stories and play. Free
Friday 13 th October	Alan Windram Children's author	10.30	Author event for aged 3-6. Places free but limited, please book.
12- 28 th October	Munro Legacy Exhibition The Munro Society	Library Hours	The anniversary touring exhibition of the Munro mountains.
Tuesday 17 th Oct	Book Group	7.30pm	Book discussion group
Friday 27 October	Spookbug	2.30-3pm	Songs & stories for toddlers & pre-schoolers. Free
Monday 30 th October and every Monday through winter	Cards / boards games/ jigsaw morning for adults	11- 12.30	Drop in to play cards/ boards games / jigsaws.

Blanefield Thistle Football Club News

BTFC would to thank those of you who've subscribed to our Thistleball monthly draw. Your support is greatly appreciated and is going towards improving the pitch, the changing rooms, new strips, training wear and equipment. For those who don't currently enter but wish to start, please see details of how to enter below.

We'd also like to invite any volunteers who may be interested in helping the club out. We're always looking for new committee members, those with some time to help with jobs like cutting the grass and maintaining the playing surface, helping source funding, any contractors that can assist with improving the pavilion, and also potential sponsors who can support us in any way. Please get in touch on blanefieldthistlefc@gmail.com thanks.

Winning money while supporting your local football team - doesn't sound too bad right? Now Blanefield Thistle are giving you the chance to do just that EVERY MONTH with the 'Blanefield Thistleball' prize draw HOW DO I ENTER? Simply pay £5 per month by Standing Order (details below) and you are automatically entered into the draw for that month which will take place on the 28th day of each month. 40% of entries will be paid out in prizes - so if 100 people enter that's £200 to be won each month Can I enter more than once? ..• SURE! every £5 gets you 1 entry - E.G a £10 donation will get you 2 entries.

Payment Details

Name. Blanefield Thistle

Acc Number. 00167567

Sort Code: 800898

Reference: Your Name