

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Jan/Feb 2024 No 97

Grab Your Chance to Make A Real Contribution To Village Life

In the last BVB we appealed for members of the community to come forward and join the Strathblane Community Development Trust (SCDT) board to allow longstanding members to step down as charitable trustees. One person expressed interest, a newcomer to the village, but we desperately need more. Surely in our community there are residents willing to help us. Here is the appeal we made last time....

The SCDT is the main vehicle for enabling change to our village, raising funds and managing projects - helping the community to help itself. We need new Board Directors including a Company Secretary/Treasurer who are also charity trustees. The retirement of a number of directors next year provides an exciting opportunity to help steer the development of the village over the next few years. Recent successes include the new library, the Bothy and many excellent paths, but this is your chance to set the next agenda.



Having delivered these great projects it is vital that SCDT maintains the momentum and continues to sustain our subsidiary Thomas Graham Library Ltd (TGLL) which owns the library on behalf of the community. As an established charity we also provide overarching support for many local groups such as the Blane Valley Allotments, the Campsie Crooners and we hope soon to add Strathblane Heritage.

How do we operate? The Board provides the overall governance of the organisation and our working or associate groups deliver our projects. No new project starts without volunteers to deliver them. The Board is likely to meet 4-6 times a year and will give advice and receive reports from groups on their progress and will approve grant applications.

Who are we looking for? We need four volunteers who are enthusiastic and have a desire to help the community. In particular we desperately need somebody with finance and accounting skills. This is a great opportunity to work with a group of enthusiastic people, while contributing to your own community. Training is available online through the Development Trust Association.

Contact scdt@strathblane.online to express interest in joining our Board.

Coming Soon - Local Place Plan Consultation By Community Council

Why should we do a local place plan?

Local Place Plans are part of new planning legislation and give our community the power to create proposals for positive development of land and our rural area.

With an approved Local Place Plan, **our community-led local land strategy becomes part of the wider planning strategy** that Stirling Council will have to adhere to.

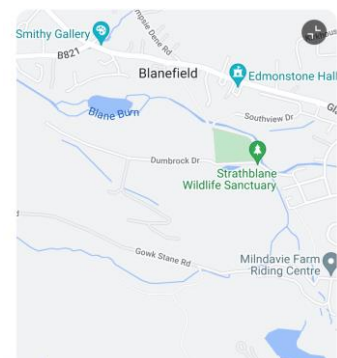
SCC and SCDT will be launching a community consultation in the Spring. As well as guiding Planning, an important by-product is evidence of community priorities and community support for various projects. This can help all sorts of **community groups access grant funding** without conducting onerous research of their own.

Are there any questions that you or your group would like included in the survey?

Please let us know by 10th February 2024. contact@strathblanecouncil.org or scdt@strathblaneonline.org

For those of you with long memories you may remember the survey carried out in 2009 that resulted in our Community Action Plan 2011 (see SCC and SCDT websites). The priorities identified have guided the work of SCC and SCDT since then. For example: Paths, Allotments, Speeding traffic, Affordable Housing.

Our Local Place Plan will replace the Community Action Plan and bring everything up to date.



Strathblane Community Council December/January 24 Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

December Meeting

We discussed the proposed cuts to the bus services. The CC agreed to contact SC about how unacceptable it was for services in the rural areas to be cut. We recorded a vote of thanks to Val brand for her work on this issue.

We set a date for the Christmas tree switch on for December 15th and the inside of the hall will be decorated on the 9th. This year the carols will be led by the Campsie Crooners.

It was agreed that the first group meeting for the Local Place Plan will take place on February 12th.

JG mentioned that a resident has been pursuing the issue of power cuts with Alyn Smith. GE has emailed the Resilience Team at SC about this also but has had no reply yet. This is a huge issue for the area as when phones become digital there will be no means of communication for residents in the event of a power outage.

January Meeting

Police Report - There was a distraction theft/bogus workman incident in Blanefield. An unknown person purporting to be an employee of Scottish Water gained access to an elderly person's home and took a quantity of jewellery believed to be high value. Please continue to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Two members of the public reported scam messages/phone calls they have received purporting to be from the Police/PPI companies. Please be mindful of these common types of scams and who you share personal information with.

Dr McLean joined the meeting to discuss the removal of our district nurses from the local surgery. This is a trial

situation but happened with no consultation with the local doctors.

We have written to Forth Valley Health Board regarding this issue and have encouraged local residents to write also. Nobody has had a reply.

The doctors are concerned that our residents are losing out on care. Dr McLean said that in her experience patients do not want to complain.

Any patient who cannot make the journey to Killearn can ask for a house call. The loss of the treatment room at our surgery means that more people have to ask for house calls, making the system less efficient.

The doctor is no longer immediately available if a nurse in Killearn recommends further treatment.

Dr McLean highlighted that historically patients in our area have been able to choose to be referred to a Glasgow hospital for treatment. Now about 1 in 3 referrals are being returned to the doctor to be sent to Forth Valley. The cross-boundary arrangement was agreed many years ago and it is disappointing that it apparently no longer stands.

Councillor Fraser reported that budget meetings are now taking place at SC. The Government is giving some funding to local councils to make up the shortfall in income due to the freeze on council tax.

We will continue to push against any proposals to cut the buses and the libraries.

It was reported that Finlay Fountain, a past member of the CC, died.

Date Of Next Meeting: February 5th 2024.

Christmas Thanks



The Community Council would like to thank everybody involved in the Christmas tree switch on in December. We are grateful to Duff Trees, who once again supplied our lovely tree. We also owe thanks to Greens for donating mince pies. We need to thank the Wee Spuds who cheered up the village with their lovely light displays in some of the flower tubs. We hope they will do this again next year. We very much appreciate the help we received from members of the public who came out to help with putting up the tree. We would also like to thank the Campsie Crooners for leading the carol singing. Last, but not least, we have to thank Jonah Jackson who switched the lights on.

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
Eleanor Balfour and Ian Boardley

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 or

Email: stathblanecv@gmail.com

Strathblane Community Development Trust (SCDT)

AGM Our AGM will take place on Monday 26th February At 7.30pm in the Thomas Graham Community Library. New members welcome.

Working from home? Struggling for space?

If you want to have a meeting or just a gathering with friends in a warm, comfortable space, The Thomas Graham Library offers peaceful community rooms for business meetings, personal meetings and clubs.

Contact the team via the TG library website. Individualised rates can be negotiated.

PARKING AT THE LIBRARY BUILDING - THE CURRENT SITUATION IS NOT SAFE

Parking at the library building is for users of the building during the day and the evening. The building is still used even if the library is closed. It is not for school drop offs and collection, and it is not for dog walkers. Please do not park in the disabled bays unless you have a blue badge. Finally, please do not leave your engine running.

Heritage Society News

Know your Local History! Strathblane Heritage Website Quiz

Who described the Blane Water as “Bonnie Blane, sweet tiny river!”? What was the name of the king slain in the Battle of Mugdock in 750AD?

Use www.strathblaneheritage.org to find the answers to these and 18 other questions and you could win yourself a £30 voucher to spend in Coffee at the Wilsons. Quiz sheets will be distributed at February’s Heritage Soc meeting on **Monday 19 February**. Spare copies will be available from Strathblane Library or can be printed from the website. The quiz is open to everyone. You don’t need to be a member. Completed entries, including contact details, should be left at the library by 5pm on **Monday 1 March**. A list of the winners will be announced at the Strathblane Heritage AGM, 7.30pm **Monday 18 March**. In the event of a tie, there will a draw for the £30 voucher. Results will be posted on the website, the village Facebook page and in the library. Good luck! Remember every answer can be found on the website, though some require a bit more digging than others.

Meanwhile, **Eddie Edmonstone** will give a richly illustrated talk entitled **Duntreath and the Edmonstones** on **Monday 19 February**. His presentation will include images of the sumptuous interior of the castle taken in 1898 and rarely seen before as well as tales of the adventures (and misadventures) of his ancestors.



Alan McKirdy is the keynote speaker at the AGM on Monday 18 March. Author of the popular *Landscapes in Stone* series, Alan promises to explain how fire and ice moulded the Blane Valley. Ever wondered about the origins of Dumgoyne or Ballagan Glen or the Gowk Stane? He has the answers.

All meetings are in Strathblane Village Club and start at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm. Members free. Visitors £3, including refreshments.

Blanefield Thistle 2023 review and 2024 forecast

2023 was an exceptional year for BTFC off the field, bringing in over £5,000, all of which will be re-invested into the club. The fund-raising quiz was a great success with over 100 people in attendance, raising £1,800. We will be running it again in June this year so please look out for tickets. The Thistleball is now bringing in a steady revenue for the club which has allowed us to become registered members of the Scottish Youth Football Association (SYFA). We will be running coaching sessions later in the year. Playing the Thistleball is simple, all you need to do is set up a standing order for only £5 per month to the following account Bank of Scotland, Blanefield Thistle FC, 00167567, 80-08-98 with your name as the reference. If more people enter we will be able to offer a 2nd prize. We gave away £300 in a special Christmas prize offer!. We are looking to invest some of the money raised to purchase a new ride-on lawnmower to help with grass cutting which has been exacerbated due to reduction in council visits. We will be carrying out repairs and decoration of the pavilion this year and looking into the costs of a new pavilion to replace the current one which is almost 50 years old. We really are trying our best to improve the club both on and off the pitch.



On-field 2023 season review from our Manager Jordan Dempsey : On the pitch the club finished the 2023 season in fourth place in the Forth & Endrick League, matching the previous season placing. We did however accumulate 4 points more than in 2022, so an improvement in that regard. The cup competitions saw us reach the final four of all three cups where we faced league winners Deanston in all three semi finals, unfortunately being beaten in all three to miss out on the chance of silverware. I look forward to welcoming the players back to pre-season training soon and hopefully seeing some new faces in attendance too.

New Sponsor – We would like to welcome the contribution made by West Group Technical Services Ltd to fund new strips and training tops. The investment by yet another local company means so much to us and we are thrilled to have them on board. Please find out more about their services at westgrouptechnical.co.uk

Are you interested in joining our committee? Would you like to play for BTFC? Please drop us a line at blanefieldthistle@gmail.com



Thomas Graham Community Library

Thomas Graham Community Library Events 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk

Please contact the library for further information / to book. Unless stated, all events are in the library and there is no charge to attend.

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| Games Club For Grown Ups Fortnightly | 10.30-12.30 Drop In Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws Coffee and chat! | Tuesday 30 th January 13 th February 27 th February 12 th March 26 th March |
| Needles and Natter Fortnightly |  10.30-12.30 Drop in | Tuesday 6 th February 20 th February 5 th March 19 th March |
| Film Discussion Club | 7.30 p.m. Contact the library for details | Tuesday 6 th February 12 th March (tbc) |
| Book Group | 7.30 p.m. Contact the library for details | Tuesday 20 th Februar 19 th March |
| BookBug  | 2.30 p.m. Babies and toddlers. Rhymes and stories with your wee ones. Drop in | Friday 26 th January 23 rd February 22 nd March |
| Fabric Fun | 3.15 p.m. Ages 8-11 years Please book | Wednesday 7 th February 6 th March |
| Game On Games for Young People | P1-3 3.15-4.15 p.m. Please book, under 8 must be accompanied P4-7 4.30 -5.30 p.m. | Every Thursday |
|  | 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Advice on all matters, including Energy Issues and Fuel bills Drop In Sessions. No Need To Book | Thursday 1 st February 29 th February 28 th March |
| Contact us on | strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk | 01360 770737 |

February Family Film!

We are hoping to hold a Family Film Morning on Saturday 17th February 11 a.m. for the half term holiday.

Come along for a film morning in the library.. which film it will be is still a mystery.... If you are interested, then to book a place and get more information contact: strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk 01360 770737. Under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult (who can read a book and have a coffee in the main library while the film is on!). Free event.

Cubs Bake Sale



Strathblane Cubs will be holding a Bake sale on Saturday 24th February 10 -12, in front of the library. This is to raise money for our annual cub camp at Auchengillan. Please support us by coming along to buy some delicious home baking and meet some of the Cubs and hear what fun we've been up to this term so far.



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