

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Mar/Apr 2024 No 98

WE NEED YOUR OPINIONS

Strathblane Community Council and the Strathblane Community Development Trust are working together to produce a Local Place Plan. The completed plan will be sent to Stirling Council to help guide planning decisions in the years to come.

To kick off the consultation process we would like you to comment, anonymously, on your local community and to let us know what could be done to make our villages even better places to live in, work in and visit. Anybody over the age of 11 can fill in the questionnaire and it is not limited to one per household. The more completed questionnaires that we get the better.

The success of this consultation is dependent on as many residents as possible completing the questionnaire which you can find via the QR code or via our dedicated Local Place Plan web page <https://strathblanec.org.uk/topics/planning/local-place-plan-2024>. Paper copies will be available in the library for people who prefer to use these. Members of the Community Council and SCDT will also be available in the library on Monday and Tuesday mornings to provide help in completing the questionnaire.



To have your say and shape the future of our villages please complete the questionnaire by April 30th, 2024.

Heritage Society - New WW2 Research Project

Strathblane Heritage has launched a project to research the lives of the community's Second World War heroes. The names of six of them appear on the local War Memorial, but little is known about their lives or how they died.

The Society has recruited a team of volunteers from its membership, who have undertaken to produce the stories of these men in time for next year's 80th anniversary of VE Day. Recently they assembled for a briefing at Strathblane War Memorial. Anne Balfour explained that as Strathblane War Memorial was, like most throughout Scotland, erected to commemorate the lives of those lost during the First World War, the names of those who died in WW2 were only added as an addendum –

and few records exist of their lives and war service. "A few years ago, there was a local initiative to tell the stories of the 27 local men who gave their lives in the First World War," she said. "Now, with the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 fast approaching, we feel it's time to do the same for the six men whose names appear on our memorial, but about whom we know little. "The project will also include Daniel Davidson, a seventh man, who died in 1946, presumably as a result of his war service, as he has a Commonwealth War Grave in Strathblane Cemetery. The Holy Grail will be to track down family members who can share the memories of these men that have been passed down to them, maybe along with photographs, letters and memorabilia." The team will work to capture both the personal and wartime histories of these seven men, using a combination of military sources and the more familiar genealogy databases used by family historians, such as ScotlandsPeople and Ancestry. The Strathblane seven are:



Royal Artillery gunner James Callender

Leading Aircraftsman Daniel Davidson

Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve Lieutenant Andrew Maclean

RNVR Petty Officer Gilbert McKay

Royal Engineers Sapper Archibald MacNicol

Highland Light Infantry Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Pedder

RNVR Chief Petty Officer Alexander Turnbull

If any reader can provide information about any of them, they are asked to use the contact form on the Society's website:

www.strathblaneheritage.org

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.

Strathblane Community Council December/January 24 Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Local Place Plan

We have a sub group working on a questionnaire to inform the Local Place Plan. AT spoke about it. It is quite long but simple to complete. One thing we are looking at is travel patterns and we are also trying to understand which aspects of our area are important to residents. We need to discover what people feel about affordable homes and properties for downsizing. We are asking about local facilities also. The last section gives us an insight to the demographic of those responding.

Resilience Officer (as a result of power cuts)

JH and GE met with Cheryl Plane, the Resilience Officer from SC, and her colleague, following a lengthy power cut in the area when mobile phones stopped working and there was no internet connectivity. This meant that residents were left isolated and with no way to contact emergency services if necessary. Land line phones were still working but these are scheduled to be made digital in the next few years which means they would no longer work either. The Resilience team at SC are about to purchase a Starlink device which they can bring to villages if necessary. Up to 100 devices can be plugged into this and it also allows access to the internet. We could also purchase our own Starlink.

A resident wrote to our MP about the risks of power cuts but received an unsatisfactory response. GMcG said that he would raise this with SC.

Paths update

SC is currently making a path along the Cuilt Road linking parts of the West Highland Way. This has been done

with no consultation with the CC or SCDT. We are concerned that cars will park on the pathway and walkers will have to walk in the middle of the road, making it more dangerous than it is at present. SC says it will monitor the situation and deal with it if cars do park on the path.

The SCDT paths group met with Roads last year to discuss possible routes for a safer path for walkers, but no further consultation took place before the decision was made. A resident said that SC has learned nothing from the situation at the Devil's Pulpit where parking caused a lot of problems. He believes that this path will make the route more dangerous for walkers.

Councillor McGarvie will speak to SC officers about this and arrange a site visit once the resident has written to him.

Elected member's report

The budget is the main issue for SC at the moment. They have tried to limit the impact of budget decisions on the most vulnerable residents and to ensure that cuts do not prevent residents from getting out of poverty.

Buses and libraries were what people lobbied for and these have been left alone. The most contentious cut for many residents is the withdrawing of P5 swimming lessons. GMcG said that the response to the cuts has been understanding in the main.

RD asked about the Roads budget. GMcG said that a lot of the budget was used for the Cycling event last year and he is angry about the roads in West Stirlingshire.

Date Of Next Meeting: April 8th 2024.

Blanefield Thistle Update

You may have noticed us working on the pavilion over the last few weeks. It was great to see some of you stopping in to see how we are getting on and for offering your help. The pavilion has been in a state of disrepair for a fair few years but thanks to funds generated from the people of Strathblane and Blanefield, we now have the money to make improvements. So, what are we doing? We had to patch the roof because of leaks, we have put up a stud wall to replace the temporary wall between the changing rooms, ordered new doors and have painted the internal walls and woodwork. The outside will look a lot better this summer with PVC fascia around the roof, a render skim around the bottom and finally a lick of paint. All of this work will keep the pavilion going until we can find the money to eventually replace it. Next up is improving the pitch and a new mower. Please get in touch if you can help. On the playing side we are always looking for new players to join the squad, the list of our fixtures is shown below, feel free to come along and the team.

We have taken delivery of the new strips from our new sponsor West Group Technical Services. They are a Strathblane based business who have been growing year after year, operating in the domestic and commercial sector of the electrical and security technologies industry across the whole of the UK.

Venture On – Adult Cycling Training.

Venture On is a small outdoor activity company run by a local resident. They run Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions and cycling activities.

They have been awarded a grant from Cycling Scotland to fund the delivery of 20 adult cycle training sessions. These sessions are free and are normally delivered on a 1:1 basis. The training sessions are to help folks start cycling, become more confident with cycling on roads, or how to cycle as a family.

The initial intention with the allocation of funding is to spread the training across the communities where the training providers are based. Initially, therefore, they are looking to work with our CC and Killearn's to find adults who would be keen to take advantage of the free training. They plan to also look at Aberfoyle but would prefer to stay more local to begin with. The following link takes you to Cycling Scotland's web page containing more details on the content of the training: <https://cycling.scot/what-we-do/training/adult-cycle-training>



SATELLITE CLL @ THOMAS GRAHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY



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 spring.

These classes will be visible on MyCLL from Thursday 21 March and bookable on Monday 25 March: [Centre for Lifelong Learning Online Catalogue \(strath.ac.uk\)](#)

The Purpose of Art in Everyday Life - (Johann Booyens)

Wednesdays from 17 April – 22 May, 18.30-20.30 for 6 weeks. Fee £90

Engage and participate with this series of conversations and exercises about the function of art in modern society. Based on the aesthetic philosophies of Armstrong, Scruton, De Botton, Kierkegaard and others, examine the value and position of art in contemporary everyday life. Various exercises, presentations and discussions makes this a highly engaging and stimulating class.

Family History Research: An Introduction – (Kate Keter)

Tuesday 23 April – 11 June, 12.30-15.00 for 8 weeks. Fee £150

Discover sources useful for tracing the story of your own family, including indexes, original records and a range of online sources. The focus of this 8-week class is Scottish and English records and case studies, which show how various sources can be used to build a meaningful genealogical record.

Give it a Go: Italian (Giovanna Vignati)

Monday 3 June - 8 July, 12.15-14.15 for 6 weeks. Fee £90

The aim of this beginner-level class is to provide those with minimal or no knowledge of their chosen language the chance to enhance and gain skills in communicating effectively in that language. The class will be conversational in nature but will also look at basic sentence formation and grammar. This will be achieved by using a variety of situations in which travellers abroad may find themselves. It is suited to those who may be going abroad for business or holidays.

Talk Italian (Giovanna Vignati)

Monday 3 June - 8 July, 10.00-12.00 for 6 weeks. Fee £90

This class offers those who have some knowledge of the language the chance to improve their skills. The focus is on speaking and listening but consolidation of grammar will also feature. Again, this class is suited to those who may be going abroad for business reasons as well as those who wish to gain the basics in the language for their own personal development.

Give it a Go: Spanish - (Ana Richardson)

Friday 28 June - 2 August, 13.00-15.00 for 6 weeks. Fee £90

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¡Hola! ¿Quieres practicar español?

Would you like to revise basic Spanish? Did you take a beginner course some time ago and need to refresh it? Have you been learning Spanish on Duolingo and now want to practise speaking it to others? From Friday 12 April, the library will host a block of five weekly two-hour revision classes for people who have learned a basic level of Spanish. The topics we will talk about include families, leisure activities, places, and eating out. We will also revise basic grammar such as numbers, verb conjugations and adjectives.

For more information, please contact the library **T: 01360 770737** **E: strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk**

Charity Art Sale and Exhibition, 11th May, Thomas Graham Library, Strathblane

This is being organised by local artist Chris Mumford and will be held in the Thomas Graham Library Community Rooms on Saturday 11th May, 11 am to 5 pm. Chris will donate 50% of all sales of her art work to Strathcarron Hospice. Other local artists will also be exhibiting their work, namely Amy Ricketts and George Thom. Art work will be available to purchase on the day including original framed oil paintings, unframed oil paintings, watercolour paintings, and ceramics. A selection of prints and cards will also be available to purchase.

Thomas Graham Community Library, Strathblane

T: 01360 770737 E: strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk

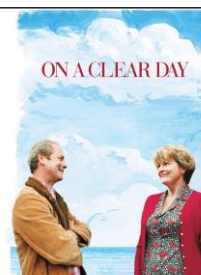
Film Evening for Grown Ups - Feel Good, Scottish Film!







Thursday 4th April, 7.15 for 7.30pm Running time 94 minutes

Join us to watch 'On A Clear Day' Starring Peter Mullen and Brenda Blethyn.

Tea/ coffee/ biscuits provided (20p donation) or bring your own refreshments.

Places free but please let us know if you'd like to come for numbers. Thanks Beth & Lynne.



Games Club For Grown Ups Fortnightly	10.30-12.30 Drop In fortnightly Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws etc Coffee and chat!	Tuesday 26 th March 9 th April 23 rd April
Needles and Natter Fortnightly	 10.30-12.30 Drop in fortnightly. Knitting, embroidery, sewing, stitching, coffee & chat	Tuesday 2 nd April 16 th April 30 th April
Film Discussion Club Monthly	 7.30 p.m. Contact the library for details	Tuesday May 7 th
Book Group Monthly	 7.30 p.m. Contact the library for details	Tuesday No April Meeting May 21 st
BookBug	 2.30 p.m. Babies and toddlers Rhymes and stories with your wee ones. Drop in	Friday 26 th April
Fabric Fun	3.15 p.m. Ages 8-11 years Please book	Wednesday 8 th May
Game On Games for Young People	P1-3 3.15-4.15 p.m. Please book, P4-7 4.30 -5.30 p.m.	Every Thursday – During term time (not Easter holidays)
	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 28 th March
Lego Morning	 11am-12.30pm Under 8 must be accompanied	Saturday 27 th April Drop in to build some Lego!
IT & Me Volunteers	Our IT volunteers will be in the library to help with accessing e-books/ e-resources or general computer queries. Please contact the library to book a slot. 10.30-12.30pm	Tuesday 26 th March Tuesday 9 th April

Strathblane Bowling Club season opening will take place on Saturday 20th April at 2.00pm

We are preparing now for an exciting new season of camaraderie, competition and community spirit. We would love you to come and join us in our welcoming bowling community. Founded on the principles of sportsmanship, friendship and fun, Strathblane Bowling club offers a warm welcome to everyone of all ages and skill levels. Whether you are a seasoned bowler, or a newcomer eager to learn the game, our club provides the perfect setting for you to thrive.

As a member you can expect expert **coaching**, friendly **competition**, **social events** beyond the green and **community connection** with neighbours and fellow villagers, all in beautiful surroundings. Whether you are seeking relaxation, recreation, or simply a sense of belonging, Strathblane Bowling club offers it all and more. Please contact the club by visiting during the season or by emailing: strathblanebowlingclub@outlook.com

<p>GET IN TOUCH</p> <p>SCC Email at contact@strathblanec.org.uk or via our website www.strathblanec.org.uk</p> <p>Your Community Councillors</p> <p>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</p> <p>Additional Sources Community Website www.strathblane.online Library; Notice boards; Shops; Local weekly press & the Facebook Strathblanefield page</p>	
<p>Strathblane Community Development Trust</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Enquiries and Booking Contacts</p> <p>Edmonstone Hall Kim Jones via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk The Village Club Check schedule @www.villageclub1911.org or Email: stathblanevc@gmail.com</p>