

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Apr 2025 No 102

SPEEDING TRAFFIC

The Community Council has been asking Stirling Council over the last few years to take action over drivers speeding through the village. The traffic calming at the Village Club has never worked properly and as far as we know the monitoring which was supposed to take place after six months never actually happened.

We have repeatedly asked for an officer from the Roads Department to attend one of our meetings but have been told that this is not possible. Letters of complaint about speeding drivers have received standard replies, saying that there have been no fatalities so nothing can be done. It seems to us that waiting for a fatality is much too late – we want to avoid such a thing happening.

In response to many comments in our recent surveys we have stepped up our campaign for better control of the speed limit in our village. We have asked Councillor McGarvie to request a speed monitor and to speak to Police Scotland about measures that they can take – mobile cameras or cardboard policemen seem to work elsewhere in the region. We have also asked him to insist that a Roads officer attends a future Community Council meeting to address our concerns and to give residents an opportunity to voice theirs.

Residents are concerned about the danger of walking their children along the A81 and we agree that effective action must be taken to slow down drivers travelling through our village.

New Heritage Trail Project

Strathblane Heritage (SH) is launching a new project, to create a two-mile Heritage Trail around the village. Based on the present Heritage Walk as laid out in the 'Walks Around Strathblane' leaflet and display board beside the library, it will comprise a series of information boards telling the stories of the people, places and buildings that over the centuries have shaped our village's history.

These boards will be similar to those installed beside the ruined Craigend Castle at Mugdock Park (right) and will be designed and built by the same local company.

Each board will carry a QR code with a link to the relevant information section on Strathblane Heritage's website – www.strathblaneheritage.org. The website will also contain an overhead drone film of the Trail. The Trail will start at the Parish Church on Campsie Road, then lead along the main road to the Village Club, the War Memorial, then down Station Road past the old Printworks site and Blanefield Station, before turning on to the Gary Wright Way to the old bleachfields beside the Wildlife Sanctuary, then finishing at Edenkiln beside Greens.

The project is estimated to cost £15,000 and grant applications have been made to local charity foundations. Stirling Council has already committed to providing one of its Community Pride grants towards the cost. SH's members approved the project at our recent AGM.

Alastair Balfour, SH's trail project leader, said the Trail will bring to life the people and events that combined to create the village that we know and love today. "Our work in researching and telling these stories through our evening presentations and website has uncovered a real thirst for knowledge about our community's remarkable history. And it's not just local folk who want to know more.....we aim to attract more visitors, walkers and tourists, who can quickly gain an insight into what's happened, where and when, during an hour-long stroll around the Trail."

A Strathblane Heritage Trail will join the growing series of such installations in Stirlingshire, including the successful Killlearn Trail opened four years ago. If SH's funding applications are successful, the Trail could be open by early next year.

VE Day Exhibition - Saturday May 3 to Friday May 23 at the Library during opening hours

To mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day (8 May 1945), Strathblane Heritage presents an exhibition telling the stories of seven local servicemen who never came home and sharing memories of village life during the conflict. You are warmly invited to the opening on 3 May, 2025 at 2pm in the library. This is a free, open event. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have family memories of village life during wartime that you would like to share please contact us here:

<https://www.strathblaneheritage.org/contact-us/> or speak to a committee member.



Strathblane Community Council Jan/Apr 25 Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Local Place Plan

Since the beginning of the year the Community Council has been working with the SCDT on the Local Place Plan. We have had three drop-in sessions where residents were able to complete a questionnaire based on our initial survey. The results of these are being analysed at present.

Presentations

In January we had a presentation from Simon Graham about his plans for Ballagan Estate. In April local resident Mirte Greve gave an interesting presentation about local biodiversity.

Playpark

James Aikman from Stirling Council has been out to look at the condition of the playpark. We have some residual funding from builders' contributions and James suggests that we use this to improve the drainage in the park and top up the bark underneath the equipment. He is currently looking at costings for this.

Resilience Plan

We discussed the Resilience Plan following a request from a resident. It would possibly benefit from a review at some point, but in general the CC agreed that the village communicated well using social media and existing networks (neighbour checks etc). MV reiterated her 'regret' that they had not opened the library when it was safe to do so, to allow those without electricity to recharge mobile phones etc. KR similarly added that the Village Club was designated a refuge point on the Resilience Plan and has a kitchen, telephone landline etc that could be used, but on the day wasn't used. It was agreed that in future the red alert should be taken as a trigger for

these public spaces to reach out on social media and remind residents that they are available if required.

Cemetery Extension

Further to a request RF reported that SC has approached the landowner regarding land for the cemetery extension. The landowner has not yet replied. JH said that we were promised the extension when planning permission was granted for Braidgate and the present cemetery is almost full. RF asked if there are any alternative sites and JH replied that it is the council's responsibility to look into this. A resident commented that the site needs to be near the church.

AOCB

A resident suggested that we should no longer use Facebook in support of Ukraine following America's treatment of Ukrainians. JH said that we all agree with the sentiment behind this suggestion, but we need to be able to communicate with residents. It was agreed that we will remain on Facebook until there is a useful alternative

A resident asked about Broadband in the village. There are no plans to put fibre into large parts of the village. IB and RD are our representatives regarding this and there is a contact in Killearn who is working on it.

Edward Pickard reported that the work at Dumbrock Loch has been completed, and they are waiting for rain to refill it. He reported that the sauna returned this week.

JH will not be available on the date of the next meeting so it will now be held May 5th.

Tennis Club Open Evening Friday 25th April, 5.30- 7.30pm

Open to all (members and non-members, young and old)

Come and try out the local courts with friends and family.

Start the weekend with Burgers and drinks on sale 😊

Thinking of coming? Please drop us an email to help us get an idea of numbers.

grays@kirkburndrive.net

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 Eleanor Balfour Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031 Kate Ramsden 07801372588 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.org

Email: stathblanec@gmail.com

Library Community Rooms

Email: info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com

CLIMATE ACTION FILMS

CLIMATE ACTION FILM SCREENINGS

FREE EVENT - TO BOOK: USE EVENTBRITE QR CODES BELOW, LINK ON SCDT WEBSITE, OR ASK IN LIBRARY



25/4/2025

16/5/2025



IT'LL NEVER WORK & H&I CLIMATE ACTION HUB



2040

DOORS 7.30 FOR 8PM SCREENING
STRATHBLANE LIBRARY, 12 KIRKBURN RD, G63 9ED

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AND LICENSED BAR



REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND COMPANY NUMBER SC23437
REGISTERED OFFICE AS ABOVE
SCOTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC59298



THESE EVENTS HAVE BEEN FUNDED BY A GRANT AWARDED TO STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST BY STIRLING COUNCIL AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY PRIDE FUND

There are two film events left in the series of five free film screenings funded by a community pride grant and organised by Strathblane Community Development Trust and volunteers from the community, for the community. In our Local Place Plan survey the community asked for more input in relation to sustainability and climate change.

We recognise that our community feels overwhelmed by the climate crisis, and many don't know where or how to start making a difference and are asking for help to learn and influence change. We also recognise that being part of a group fosters a sense of support, promoting individual well-being and activating collective motivation, thereby encouraging people to actively participate in climate change action through shared values and a shared sense of responsibility. The free films and discussion sessions, as well as introducing the climate crisis and stimulating community action, will also support those experiencing climate anxiety or overwhelm by providing a safe, non-judgemental space for learning and discussion. Our hope is that this will inspire members of our community to form an action group and provide a link to the wider climate network.

#4 (25/4/25) - Two local Scottish films, It'll Never Work by Joe Osborn and Hans Unkles AND Our Film: Climate Action Highlands

& Islands by H&I Climate Hub form. The brains and brawn behind the first ever solar powered fishing boat, Hans Unkles, the director from H&I and some of the Climate hub members will be joining us after each film for a Q&A.

#5 (16/5/25) - 2040 by Damon Gameau. The film looks at the effects of climate change over the next 20 years and what technologies that exist today can help reverse the effects.

ECOTHERAPY WORKSHOP

A local psychotherapist is running a free ecotherapy workshop following the events. See the poster at the library or email the SCDT if you would like to participate.

FACING CLIMATE REALITIES
A FREE EXPERIENTIAL ECOTHERAPY WORKSHOP
EXPLORING CLIMATE CHANGE
Saturday 24th of May 2025, 10 am - 1 pm

Thomas Graham Community Library, 12 Kirkburn Rd, Strathblane, Glasgow G63 9ED with some outdoors activities in Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary.

INTRODUCTION
As part of Strathblane Community Development Trust's series of Climate Action Film Screenings we are offering the free ecotherapy workshop. Transformations on our planet are leading to new climate realities for our way of living and being. Our landscapes are changing and increasingly people are beginning to worry, and the very natural responses of grief and fear linked to uncertainty about the future, often called Climate Anxiety, is becoming a growing concern especially amongst young people, people who enjoy the outdoors, climate activists and people whose livelihoods depend on nature. As individuals and communities, we can contribute to positive social and ecological change. One way to begin that journey is to come together and build a connection with nature.

WHAT TO EXPECT
This free Ecotherapy workshop aims to create space to discuss our world and our worries about the environment. The workshop will include a variety of nature connection exercises that will nurture us to slow down, get curious and use our senses to support and flourish the ecosystems, we will also use creative storytelling. **Please bring a pen and a notebook**, and dress for the outdoors. Sessions include storytelling, eco-compasses, a variety of practices and interventions that incorporate nature. The goal of ecotherapy is to foster a deepening relationship with the natural world, cultivate ecological awareness, and promote eco-ethical values such as sustainability, cooperation, and stewardship.

ABOUT THE FACILITATOR
Nancy Bellamy holds a PhD in Post-Positive Psychology, is a UKCP Registered Psychotherapist, Counsellor, Clinical Supervisor and Trainer of Psychotherapists and Counsellors.
www.thomasgrahamcommunitylibrary.co.uk

TO BOOK A PLACE AT THE WORKSHOP YOU CAN SIGN UP AT A CLIMATE ACTION FILM SCREENING EVENT OR EMAIL STRATHBLANE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST SCDT@STRATHBLANE.ONLINE

DOE TO THE NATURE OF THE WORKSHOP SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 12 PEOPLE

CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



Centre for Lifelong Learning

University of Strathclyde adult learning classes now live from the Thomas Graham Community Library.

Brighten up your summer by learning something new at the Thomas Graham Community Library.

A Journey in Italian Cheese - commencing Mon 2 June

Creative Writing Taster - Thu 19 June

History of the Argentine People - Friday 20 June







Talk Spanish - commencing Friday 27 June

Visit QR code for class information and to book



Satellite CLL

LIBRARY REGULAR EVENTS

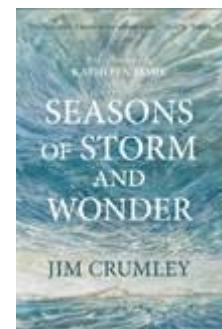
Thomas Graham Library, Strathblane. 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk		
Games Club For Grown Ups Fortnightly 	10.30am-12.30pm Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws etc Tea/coffee and chat!	Tuesday Fortnightly 22 nd April 6 th & 20 th May 3 rd & 17 th June
Needles and Natter Fortnightly 	10.30am-12.30pm Knitting, embroidery, sewing, stitching, Tea/coffee & chat	Tuesday Fortnightly 29 th April 13 th May 27 th May 10 th June
Book Group Monthly 	7.30 p.m. Contact the library for details	Tuesday 15 th April Jim Crumley Author visit FRIDAY 9 th May 10 th June
Monthly Film Discussion Club 	7.30pm. Contact the library for details	1 st Tuesday of the month 6 th May 3 rd June
BookBug 	2.30 p.m. Babies and toddlers Rhymes and stories with your wee ones. Drop in	Friday 25 th April 30 th May Monthly
	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 24 th April

Jim Crumley at Thomas Graham Library Friday 9th May 7.15



After seven years, Jim Crumley's Seasons project reaches a spectacular conclusion. "Conceived in a moment of beauty on the way home from Skye". We are delighted that Jim will be talking about his latest book, and the other wonderful nature books he has published over the years.

General admission: £4:50 Concession: £2:50 Book sales (cash only)(50p from each ticket sale will be donated to 'Wee Spuds' kids gardening club) Booking Required, email or tel. T: 01360 770737 strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk



Come and help us celebrate!



We are delighted to celebrate 10 years of serving the community. Do come along over the next couple of weeks and help us celebrate with a glass of fizz and take the opportunity to discuss your hair care needs!

We're getting ready to open the fizz and welcome all of you to our salon.

Linda & Catherine Roots Hairdressing Ltd 771070

