

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

*The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Nov 2025 No 104*

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON - COME AND JOIN US

Please join the Community Council on November 28<sup>th</sup> from 6.45pm. There will be music from 7.00pm from the Dunbarton Wind Assemblé, mince pies and mulled wine. This is a free event but donations on the evening will ensure that we can continue to provide the village Christmas tree. A card reader will be available on the evening for those of us who no longer carry cash.

**See you there!**

**The Community Council would like to thank Duff Trees who have again provided the spectacular tree which lights up our village with Christmas Spirit.**



## A Heritage Trail for Strathblane

In October Strathblane Heritage committee members, plus drone photographer Jamie Ballantine, met with Kenny French of Kenwil Ltd, the Kirkintilloch-based company awarded the contract to produce the boards for the Strathblane Heritage Trail. They walked around the proposed two-mile circuit, starting and ending at Strathblane Parish Church. With the funding package now in place, the next step is to decide on the exact locations for the six boards, which will be designed to complement the existing Railway Path sign on the Gary Wright Way.

Kenny, who has 25 years' experience and produces signs and noticeboards for locations throughout Scotland, shared his expertise and made lots of helpful suggestions. Co-chair Alastair Balfour said: "Next we will move on to creating the text, selecting eye-catching illustrations and devising maps to aid navigation around the trail." QR codes on the boards will link to [www.strathblaneheritage.org](http://www.strathblaneheritage.org) for those who would like more in-depth information. The boards should be in place by spring 2026.



Drone footage by Jamie Ballantine will be used to publicise the trail and enable visitors to the website to take a "virtual tour". The six locations are as follows:

- Strathblane Parish Church. Introduction, plus the histories of the Parish Church and the Kirkhouse Inn.
- The Village Club. Histories of the Edmonstone Hall, Bowling Club, the Tennis Courts and the Village Club itself.
- Foot of Campsie Dene Road. This will cover the Loch Katrine water pipeline, St Kessog's RC Church and Strathblane War Memorial.
- Station Road/Blane Avenue. The story of the Printworks.
- Corner of the Wildlife Sanctuary beside the entrance to the horses' field. The Bleachfields and the playing field.
- Old Mugdock Road/Dumbrock Road. Edenkiln.

If there are any aspects of local history that you would like to see included, please contact the website or speak to a member of the committee.

## A message from Police Scotland

Police Scotland has asked us to draw the attention of residents to their new Neighbourhood Alert scheme. We would encourage as many members of the community as possible to register: [www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk)

Members will receive updates on what the Balfron Community Policing Team have been doing, what they will be doing, appeals for information, and details of emerging crime trends to help protect themselves (e.g. if there have been housebreakings or a spate of bogus callers, we will highlight this). Members can reply to these alerts which go straight back to the team.

Members will only receive 'alerts' deemed relevant to them which we can refine to geographic areas for example



# Strathblane Community Council Oct/Nov 25 Update

*From Chair Julie Hutchison*

## Report from the Chair October/November

### October

#### Traffic management

Gary Neill had results of the traffic survey from two of the areas surveyed. SC will use the mean average to decide if action needs to be taken. The mean outside both the Village Club and Netherblane was around 24mph. G Neil said that this means that SC will have to do something. His department will look into the options available and send us a report. G Neill is happy to come back and talk about these. JH said that the residents would agree that action is needed. JH said that we have had a letter from the Village Club Committee who supported the traffic calming measures outside the club and asked that something should be put in its place if it is removed. JH said that the current measure is the result of a campaign carried out by pupils in the Primary School which led to us asking for a Participation Request from SC. Angela McGibbon and Lynne McKinley from SC told us that all we could have at that location is what is there now. GE and JH met with Nikki Slack, the Chief Road Safety Engineer, to walk round areas of concern in the village. She will report back to Roads.

#### Water Supply Issues at Mugdock

In reply to a councillor's request for information from SW two members of the team, Sharon Dunbar and Denni Kinnear, attended. They reported that there was a failure of the water pump at Mugdock which was temporarily repaired in April. While the supply was turned off water was supplied to residents via tankers. The pump will be replaced but this will take time. SD recommended that individuals in an area with problems should all report issues rather than one person reporting for the area. Information on how to do this is on the SW website.

#### Elected Members Report – Councillor Fraser

The visitor levy consultation closes next week. Residents are largely in favour, businesses are not. RF said that communities will be asked what they want to use the money for. We could ask for some to be used on the WHW, but the council will need to find out who owns the land.

There is a pilot project coming in for two small buses from Drymen to Balfron and Callander area. This should provide something to communities which currently have no public transport. If the pilot goes well the scheme could be expanded.

### November

#### Matters arising

The Dog warden and community safety team visited the play park regarding dog fouling, but found no evidence of this. The Dog Warden will look into obtaining better

signage and suggested another campaign with the school.

JH requested that the hedge opposite VC be cut but has had no response from SC.

#### Police report

PC McCammon told the meeting that he and a colleague were out with the speed gun at the Edmonstone Hall recently. Three drivers were spoken to. They left the cardboard police officer for the rest of the day. He will email information about the Community Speed Watch to all local Community Councils. He will come out with the speed gun when he can.

#### LPP

This has been submitted to SC. They will come back to us if any changes are needed.

#### Telephone at VC

Mark Elder from the VC committee told the meeting that the current phone line will no longer work during power cuts. The committee asked about battery back-up for use in an emergency. This will cost £145 and will keep the phone line working for several days. A resident said that EE provided them with a battery free of charge as her husband has medical issues. Mark said that he will pursue this as the VC is the emergency hub for the whole village.

#### Correspondence

We have had an email from David Rae at SC regarding a proposal to re-design the Waste Disposal Centre in Balfron. There is a meeting about this on November 13th which JH will attend.

#### AOCB

Margaret Vass spoke to the meeting about the asset transfer for the land that the library sits on. The council and the TGLL agreed that this would take place after the build was complete. Currently the TGLL rents the land from SC at a cost of £2500 per year and SC rents the building from TGLL at a cost inflated by £2500. The understanding was that once the asset transfer was complete the council rent would reduce by £2500. TGLL, through SCDT, would like the CC to support the asset transfer. The CC members present agreed to this.

A resident spoke about flooding in the school grounds. They appear to have been taken off the rotation for drain clearing. We need to request that it is put back on the rota to keep the grounds drained.

Date of next meeting – December 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

## SCDT Energy Group.

The community survey in 2024 showed there's significant local interest in renewable energy and some of you may have seen the recent news of the inspiring progress being made in Orkney ([bit.ly/SCDT\\_ORKNEY](https://bit.ly/SCDT_ORKNEY)). We're keen to see what's possible here in Strathblane.

A dedicated SCDT sub-group has now been formed to explore how we can generate clean, local energy for our community. We're delighted to announce that we've secured funding from the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) to carry out a detailed feasibility study with renewable energy specialists Locogen.

Together, we'll be assessing potential sites in and around the village to see what forms of generation — wind, solar, or hydro — could work best for us. Our ultimate goal is to give Strathblane greater energy security, lower costs, and a more sustainable future.

We're also exploring options for community investment, so local people could directly benefit from any future energy project through shared ownership and returns from electricity generation.

If you'd like to get involved or support the working group, we'd love to hear from you!

Our social media channels for updates or getting in touch can be found through [scdt@strathblane.online](mailto:scdt@strathblane.online) or using this QR Code



## What's on in the Heritage Society

The bygone days of paddle steamers speeding around the Clyde, ferrying thousands of eager holidaymakers to magical places like Tighnabruaich, Lamlash and of course the ever-popular Rothesay and Dunoon, will be recaptured on film at Strathblane Heritage's first presentation of 2026.

At the Village Club on January 19, Alastair Balfour will tell the remarkable story of how the Clyde captured the West of Scotland's holiday tourism market over the 100 years from the mid-1800s. Thanks to the engineering skills of the river's shipyards, hundreds of fast, comfortable steamers were launched to dominate its sea routes. But, as ever, the glory days of crowded beaches and piers around the Clyde came quickly to an end with the advent of jet travel and package holidays, leaving seafront resorts in decline and despair.

February's Heritage meeting will look at the history of the Campsies as the walking, climbing and even ski-ing home of generations of Glaswegians. Village resident Dr Bob Sharp, educationalist, author and mountain rescue specialist, will show film and photographs from the good old days when folk thought nothing of taking a train out to Milngavie, then walking across Mugdock to reach the hills, before they set out on their adventures and expeditions. Again at the Village Club on Monday February 16 at 7.30pm.

The final Heritage meeting of the year is our AGM on March 16, when Professor Richard Oram of Stirling University will present the history of the Earl of Lennox who received the keys to a huge slice of Western Scotland — including the Blane Valley — from King William the Lion in 1124. Prof Oram has extensively researched the story of the Lands of Lennox and it will make a compelling evening. All welcome — members free, visitors and guests £4 including tea and biccies.

See [www.strathblaneheritage.org](http://www.strathblaneheritage.org) for more details.



## WINTER AND CHRISTMAS JINGLE

Strathblane Parish Church, December 13th at 7.15pm

Tickets £10, proceeds to Strathcarron Hospice.



## Strathblane Open Mic Night. Wednesday 26/11/25 7.30pm

### Strathblane Bowling Club

Fancy singing a song or playing your instrument? Come along to Strathblane Open Mic night £3 entry for non members ALL WELCOME Contact.

George, [gethom@me.com](mailto:gethom@me.com) or Martin, [martin.Shields200mm@gmail.com](mailto:martin.Shields200mm@gmail.com)



## GET IN TOUCH

SCC Email at [contact@strathblanec.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk) or via our website [www.strathblanec.org.uk](http://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](http://www.strathblane.online)  
Library; Notice boards; Shops; Local weekly press & the Facebook Strathblanefield page

### Strathblane Community Development Trust

Email: [scdt@strathblane.online](mailto:scdt@strathblane.online)  
Website: [www.strathblane.online](http://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](mailto:info@edmonstonehall.co.uk)  
The Village Club  
Check schedule @[www.villageclub1911.org](http://www.villageclub1911.org) or Email: [stathblanevc@gmail.com](mailto:stathblanevc@gmail.com)  
Library Community Rooms  
Email: [info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com](mailto:info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com)

## Library Events

<b>Thomas Graham Library, Strathblane. 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk</b>		
Games Club For Grown Ups	 10.30am-12.30pm Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws etc Tea/coffee and chat.	<b>Tuesday Fortnightly</b> 2 Dec, 16 Dec, 13 Jan etc
Needles and Natter	 10.30am-12.30pm Knitting, embroidery, sewing, stitching, Tea/coffee & chat	<b>Tuesday Fortnightly</b> <b>24 Nov</b> , 9 Dec 23 Dec, 6 Jan etc.
Film Discussion Club	 7.15pm – 9pm Come and watch or chat about films	First Tuesday evening of the month Contact the Library for details
Book Group	 7.30pm – 9pm Come and talk about a book	Third Tuesday evening of the month. Contact the library for details
IT / Computer help by Library Volunteers	 Help with computer/ iPad issues and help with e-books etc.	Occasional Monday mornings. Contact the Library to make an appointment
BookBug	 2.30 p.m. – 3pm Drop in, free Babies and toddlers Rhymes and stories with wee ones.	Friday 28 Nov Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec (Christmas Sparkly Bookbug) Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan
	Fortnightly Thursdays 1-3pm (dependant on staff availability).	Fortnightly <b>Appointments only</b> – <b>contact CAB direct to book:</b> <a href="mailto:peter.higgins@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk">peter.higgins@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk</a> 07498925159

## Community Film Screening – ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6.45pm for 7pm lights down (prompt).**



**Places are free but limited- must be booked in advance at the Library** (small donation for tea/ coffee).

Certificate U. Children under 16 must be accompanied. Run time of 2h10 mins

*Starring James Stewart as the selfless and enduring George Bailey, the film explores themes of community, sacrifice, and the profound impact one person's life can have on others. Please be aware that there are NO subtitles on this film.*



**Charity Christmas cards** – we have a selection of charity cards for sale at the Library – cash only please.

## Scout Post



Get your local Christmas cards delivered by the Strathblane scouting groups.  
Post boxes in the library, Vishnu's Shoptmart, and the church. Post from 1st - 12th  
December.  
Cards will be delivered on the 15th December.  
Suggested donation 50p/ card



## Your Community needs you!

The Community Council is still short of two members. If you are interested in joining us to provide a link between residents and Stirling Council please get in touch at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk)

Several members of the current Community Council intend to stand down at the next elections in two years' time. If residents do not stand for election then there will be no Community Council, depriving the residents of Strathblane and Blanefield of a voice with Stirling Council and of the opportunity to influence the Local Development Plan which will affect the area for the next ten years.

**Please consider joining us.**