

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Jan 2026 No 105

Award for Stalwart of Scottish Mountain Rescue

Congratulations to local resident, Dr Bob Sharp, who has been awarded the MBE for Voluntary Service to Mountain Rescue in Scotland.

Fifty years ago in 1976, Bob was involved in a serious mountain accident in Glencoe. Motivated to find more about the rescue service, he joined the Lomond Mountain Rescue Team. Over the next 20 years he was involved in several hundred rescues and, as Team Leader, responsible for numerous operational developments.

As Secretary, Chair and Statistician of the national body - the Mountain Rescue of Scotland (MRCofS) - he continued to oversee change in several areas - governance, communication, incident recording and funding. Bob has written several definitive books on mountain rescue, its history, and the Search and Rescue Dog Association and has served as a consultant to numerous rescue organisations in the UK.

His published articles on mountain rescue/safety along with hundreds of presentations and official work with Scotland's mountaineering organisations, have impacted significantly on our knowledge of the mountain rescue service and the promotion of mountain safety. Bob's lifelong commitment as a volunteer has been recognised with the MRCofS Distinguished Service Award, Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society and now Membership of the Order of The British Empire.

The photograph shows Bob and his late Border Collie Breac on the summit of Ben Lawers. Several of Breac's relatives are qualified Search and Rescue Dogs in the Lake District.



Thank you.

The Community Council would like to thank all helpers and residents who helped to make our Christmas Tree switch on in November a success. The very generous donations allow us to continue to provide these village decorations as Stirling Council offers no financial support for this.



The Edmonstone Hall is 100!

In the summer it will be 100 years since the Edmonstone Hall was gifted to the village by the Edmonstone family.

The current management committee is planning to celebrate this landmark with an afternoon tea in the hall on Saturday May 9th. We are hoping to have some displays celebrating the history of the hall and the associated activities. All are welcome to celebrate our village asset.



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 January 2026 Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Health

JH has contacted the Practice Manager at Edenkiln Surgery to address concerns of appointments for the B12 injections being moved from our surgery to Balfron and Killearn leading to people having difficulty getting appointments. An e-mail was sent to Alexander Polson, Team Leader of Clacks and Stirling Nursing Services. He replied that rationalisation was necessary due to budget restraints. We intend to continue pursuing this with the IJB.

Roads

Gary Neill sent information that they have submitted a capital funding bid to undertake any traffic management improvements identified in the surveys.

Hedge on A81

After complaints from residents we raised the fact that the hedge hasn't been cut for a year with Rosemary Fraser and the hedge has now been cut.

Local Place Plan

This was sent to SC and they have asked for a few more bits of information which we have submitted. The council is currently looking at individual sites that have been proposed and this will be up for consultation in Spring time.

AOCB

A resident queried why the pilot local bus scheme will not include Carbeth. Rosemary Fraser said that she would look into this.

Date of next meeting – February 2nd 2026



All are welcome at the final two meetings in the Strathblane Heritage 2025-26 winter talks programme. On Monday 16 February Dr Bob Sharp, fresh from being awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list (congratulations Bob!), will give an illustrated talk on the importance of the Campsies as a popular

location for walking, climbing and occasionally even skiing. Bob, who lives locally, is an educationalist, author and mountain rescue specialist.

On Monday 16 March the society will hold its (hopefully brief!) AGM before welcoming Professor Richard Oram of Stirling University, who will present the remarkable story of the Lands of Lennox and the family that once held sway in much of West Scotland, including the Blane Valley.

Both meetings are at the usual time and place: the Village Club at 7.30pm. Visitors £4. Refreshments included. Meanwhile work is progressing on creating text and designing the six boards that will be added to the existing Railway Path Sign to create the Strathblane Heritage trail. And later this year the society hopes to mount a modest exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the Edmonstone Hall. Anyone who would like to share memories and photographs of past events and activities at the hall is asked to contact Anne Balfour, anne@annebalfour.com

Strathblane Open Mic Night. Wednesdays 04/02, 04/3 & 02/04 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 or
Martin,
martin.Shields200mm@gmail.com



GET IN TOUCH

SCC Email at contact@strathblanecc.org.uk or via our website www.strathblanecc.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: <https://strathblanecdt.org>
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: stathblanevc@gmail.com
Library Community Rooms
Email: info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com

Growing in Blane Valley Allotments Growing Well Since 2012 <https://blanevalleyallotments.com/>

If you are interested, please fill in an application form on our website which is listed above. Once we have your information we can meet with you, show you round and discuss what's involved, your experience and what sizes of plots are available. This is the best time to join us as there is a whole season ahead and we can help you get started. So, contact our Secretary via the form and begin a rare opportunity that is not usually available, this is the advantage of living local to such a vibrant village. We have about five 2-hour workdays a year which brings the opportunity to meet other members and exchange ideas, spare plants, seeds and cake.



FREE Employability Programme for Stirling Parents

Are you a parent aged 16-67 years old living in Stirling? Would you like to join other parents on a FREE programme during school hours that will help you to develop essential employability skills? If so, then our forthcoming programme is just for you. CERT, in collaboration with Stirling Community Planning Partnership and Reachout With Arts in Mind, is delivering a **FREE**, six-week initiative that supports parents to:

- Successfully complete 3 x SQA Employability qualifications
- Take part in work experience of your choosing
- Create a CV and improve job searching and/or interview techniques
- Receive 1:1 and group support to enhance your existing skills and overcome barriers
- Boost your confidence, reduce feelings of isolation, improve wellbeing and reduce anxiety through creative wellbeing sessions

With the next free course due to commence in Kippen on 17th February, please secure your place NOW by emailing info@clacksregen.org.uk or calling Ruth at 07769 370 348.



David Stewart

CEO

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david.stewart@clacksregen.org.uk

The e-centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK10 3LP

www.clacksregen.org.uk



Proposed new designs for

The Balfron Household Waste & Recycling Centre

Drop-in Sessions

Wed 28 January 2026
John McLintock Hall,
Balfron
4pm - 7pm

Wed 4 February 2026
Buchlyvie Village Hall
4pm - 7pm

Mon 9 February 2026
Kippen Village Hall
4pm - 6:30pm

Wed 11 February 2026
Edmonstone Hall,
Blanefield
4pm - 7pm

Mon 16 February 2026
Drymen Village Hall
4pm - 7pm

Wed 18 February 2026
Finty Community Hub
4pm - 7pm



Come along to a **drop-in session** and share your views on the proposed design.

www.stirling.gov.uk



ALASTAIR SAVAGE - FIDDLE ALICE ALLEN - CELLO THE FIDDLE MUSIC OF SCOTLAND



'Perfect for enhancing the mood' (Fatea Records)
'Stunning.....an absolutely beautiful double album' (Folk Wales)
'Breathtaking effortlessness' (Bright Young Folk)

STRATHBLANE AND BLANEFIELD VILLAGE CLUB (Glasgow Road, G63)

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 3PM

Tickets from TicketSource (£12, £10 concession)

(remaining tickets can be purchased at door before concert)

www.alastairsavage.co.uk

www.aliceallencello.com

Village Whist Drive

Village Whist Drive Saturday 21st February, 7 pm prompt, at the Village Club, Strathblane. All adults and young people over 10 welcome. n.b. 10 - 14 year olds must be accompanied by an adult. A fun, sociable evening with tea, cake and a raffle. Donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. No booking needed. £5 entry, payable at the door.

If you would love to take part but don't know how to play Whist, then come to our coaching session on Monday 2nd February at 7 pm in the Bowling Club. We are looking for local helpers to help with the Whist Drive, teas and coffees, and the raffle. If you can help please contact us. For more information contact one of the organisers: Jenny Oswald (jenny.oswald@googlemail.com) and Carol Craig (carolcraig@me.com) All proceeds will go to the Village Club maintenance fund.

Anti-social behaviour

It has been brought to our notice that some young people have been riding quad bikes on the Gary Wright Way. We would like to draw attention to the danger of this as the path is used by dog walkers, horses, small children on bikes etc. all of whom could be seriously injured in a collision.



Library Events

Thomas Graham Library, Strathblane. 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk			
Games Club For Grown Ups		Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws etc Tea/coffee and chat.	Tuesday Fortnightly 10.30am-12.30pm Feb 10th, 24 th , March 10th, 24th
Needles and Natter		Knitting, embroidery, sewing, stitching, Tea/coffee & chat	Tuesday Fortnightly 10.30am-12.30pm Feb 3 rd , 17 th , March 3 rd , 17 th
Film Discussion Club		Come and watch or chat about films Contact the library for details	First Tuesday evening of the month 7.15pm – 9pm Feb 3 rd March 3 rd
Book Group		Come and talk about a book Contact the library for details	Third Tuesday evening of the month. 7.30pm – 9pm Feb 17 th March 17 th
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		Babies and toddlers Rhymes and stories with wee ones. Drop in Free.	Fridays 2.30 p.m. – 3pm February 27 th March 20 th
	Fortnightly Appointments only – contact CAB direct to book: peter.higgins@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk 07498925159	peter.higgins@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk 07498925159	Fortnightly Thursdays 1-3pm (dependant on staff availability). By appointment only.

Blane Writers

We are a creative writers group who meet fortnightly on Thursday mornings from 10.15 - 11.45

Hugh Fraser Room - Thomas Graham Community Library Strathblane

We are a friendly self-funded community group - All welcome!

Dates for your 2026 diary:

5 February	2 April	26 May
19 February	16 April	11 June
5 March	30 April	25 June
19 March	14 May	9 July

We pay £3 per session Contact Lucy on 07711 404848 or Email lfrasergunn@gmail.com

Circle Dancing

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April

Blane Valley Circle Dancers are hosting two Dance Workshops with Stefan Freedman at the Village Club G63 9BP Sat 10.30am - 4.30pm and Sun 11.00 - 4.00pm Contact joeyfied@hotmail.com or jenny.oswald@googlemail.com

Celebrate 2026 as National Year of Reading

Monday 9 March 11am -12.30pm Thomas Graham Community Library

Re Connect with us! - Join us for coffee and cake

and check out all we have to offer including...



- free e-books
- audio books,
- online magazines and
- newspapers, books, newspapers,
- jigsaw.....

Your library card (new or old) is your passport to a whole world of reading!

