

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet June 2026 No 107

It's the end of an era! The legend is leaving!

Lynne 'Mrs James' is retiring after 37 years of Library service. Please join us at **Thomas Graham Community Library on Friday 26th June 6.30pm** onwards for cake and chat to celebrate Lynne's career and all she has done for the community.



Edmonstone Hall Centenary

Strathblane residents turned out in force recently to celebrate the centenary of the Edmonstone Hall. In 1926 the *Stirling Observer* described its opening as "a red-letter day in the Blane Valley" and remarked on the large crowd that assembled to witness Gwendolyn Edmonstone perform the opening ceremony. There was a similar scene when her son, Sir Archibald Edmonstone and Lady Julie were on hand to launch the hall's 100th birthday proceedings with bunting, bagpipes and generous quantities of cake. He shared memories of his mother and cut a beautiful one-hundredth birthday cake bearing an image of the hall.



The tea party was accompanied by an illustrated exhibition from Strathblane Heritage Society about the history of the hall and its many and various users. Gwendolyn, an American heiress, married Charles Edmonstone, who had become heir to the Duntreath Estate following the death of his elder brother William during the First World War. 1926 was a year of hardship and unemployment and against that background, the young Mrs Edmonstone hit on a simple and practical idea: she decided to build a long-needed hall for the local community. The hall was built by local contractor Daniel Muir, who was also responsible for Strathblane's Village Club.

For a hundred years the Edmonstone Hall has been well used by local residents. For 41 years Lynda Turner has run dancing classes for children. Since the 1940's, Strathendrick Pipe Band has practiced in the hall and performed to much acclaim. The hall has been and still is used for plays, pantomimes, badminton, ceilidhs and Burns events. New generations have brought new activities. These days the hall is used for First Aid courses for ski patrols, a community drum circle and the Waggy Tails dog training company, as well as internationally successful Karate and Taekwon-do Dojos and as a venue for film companies.

Over the intervening century, it has been the chosen location for literally thousands of birthday parties, receptions, sales, presentations, public meetings, dances and ceilidhs. Recently, it was once again turned into a polling station for the day.

The current committee deserve grateful thanks from the community for the work they do to maintain the fabric of an aging building, including recently obtaining a generous lottery grant which covered some much-needed work.

Fay Nimmo's Big Birthday!

Fay Nimmo is 90! For more than two decades Fay was the friendly face of the NHS in Blanefield and Strathblane. As the district nurse and community midwife, she greeted hundreds of nervous parents as they brought their precious newborns home. Now many of "my bairns", as she sometimes still calls them, are parents themselves or even grandparents. Fay would like to thank all those who contributed to her big birthday with cards, flowers, cake and daytrips to some of her favourite beauty spots.

Born in Stirling in March 1936, Fay worked as a missionary nurse in Botswana during the 1960s, venturing out with a small team to deliver babies in the Kalahari Desert. She once delivered quads. (They all survived.) She also passed on her skills to scores of trainee midwives. Fay is still in touch with some of them and can even manage to chat in Tswana, the local language, when they call.

After poor health forced her to return to Scotland in 1967, she worked as a labour ward sister for two years at Glasgow's Rotten Row maternity hospital before deciding to work in the community. These days her favourite piece of furniture is the reclining chair she received from the community as a retirement present. At four score years and ten, she deserves to put her feet up!



Strathblane Community Council June 2026 Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Roads: Once again there was no representative from roads. We did receive an email saying that Roads will be in consultation with the Community council once they have some suggestions regarding traffic calming. We will pursue this again at the September meeting which the CEO of Stirling Council is attending.

LPP Update: The next phase of the LPP involves completing two surveys, a spatial strategy survey and a site survey. These are not easy to complete but a lot of questions are not relevant to our area and can be skipped. Our village is a tier 5 village with Balfron a tier 4 hub. Our village is designated as countryside. As a CC we will complete the surveys reinforcing what was

agreed by residents in the LPP. We would encourage residents to complete the surveys, especially the site survey. (links to surveys - DEADLINE 22 JULY))

Site Options survey [click here](#). Spatial Strategy survey [click here](#)

AGM : at the AGM the following people were elected as Office Bearers:

Chair – Julie Hutchison

Vice-Chair – Kate Ramsden

Secretary – Grace Edmonds

Treasurer – Pamela Lee.Roads

The date of the next meeting will be 7th Sept

Strathblane Open Mic Night. Wed 1/7, 29/7 & 26/8 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@strathblanecdc.org.uk or via our website at www.strathblanecdc.org.uk

Your Community Councillors

Julie Hutchison 770791, Andrew Thompson 770838, Ian Boardley 0141 956 6681 770757, Rob Davies 771921, Pamela Lee 07801 417655, Grace Edmonds 770800, John Gray 771031, Kate Ramsden 07801 372588

Additional Sources – Community website: www.strathblane.online

Library; Noticeboards; 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 aren't already a member.

Enquiries and Bookings Contacts

Edmonstone hall

Kim Jones via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk

The Village Club

Check schedule at www.villageclub1911.org or email

strathblanecv@gmail.com

The 2nd Annual Village Whist Drive

Friday 9th of October, 2026 7pm prompt, at the Village Club,

As last year, young people over 10 particularly welcome, n.b. 10 – 14 year old must be with an adult.

No booking needed. £5. Entry at the door. Juniors free For more information, contact Jenny Oswald (jenny.oswald@googlemail.com) or Carol Graig (carolcraig@me.com)

15th August, 10am - 4pm

The Village Club Maker's Market

Join us for our maker's market to share the work of local artists and makers.

All proceeds made from table renting go to raise money for the upkeep of the Village Club.

Strathblane Community Development Trust - Presentations and More!

Friday 19th of June, captivating night of the world of our local moth species by Martin Culshaw, Doors open at 7.45 pm. See <https://strathblanecd.org/talks-and-walks/> for more information and to sign up.

Friday the 14th of August, bast walk and talk by Loch Lomond Bat Group, organised by Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary, doors open at 7.45 pm. See <https://strathblanecd.org/talks-and-walks/> for more information and to sign up.

Friday the 25th of September, an introduction to the colourful world grassland fungi on the Campsie slopes and their relation to cultural heritage, by Mirte Greve. doors open at 7.45 pm. See <https://strathblanecd.org/talks-and-walks/> for more information and to sign up.

Pollinator patch Southview Rd and Kirkburn Rd

Things are growing! With the help of local gardening company Fàladair, the On The Verge project and the wonderful children of P1 and P6 from Strathblane Primary School, the area was prepared and the seeds were sown to let it become a lovely wildflower area for the community and pollinators to enjoy. A special thank you goes out to Strathblane Nursery and local neighbours for their help with watering the area during the unexpected, and dare we say 'un-Scottish', drought.

Campsie Gems talks and walks

With thanks to our amazing invited speakers, SCDT have been able to offer a series of talks and walks to highlight aspects of our natural environment.

The upcoming talks and walks will highlight some of our local less seen wildlife, namely moths, bats and grassland fungi. Please check the SCDT website (<https://strathblanecd.org/talks-and-walks/>) to sign up for these events as places are limited.

Strathblane Community Development Trust - Paths Group Update

The Community Development Trust Paths group has been hard at it with a maintenance/upgrade session on the path between Wester Leddriegreen Road and Kirkhouse Road, AKA the Scary Path. Around four tons of aggregate were packed in to improve the walking surface and keep it drier.

We also now have permission to make improvements to the trod path along the old railway line between the new Scottish Water bridge and Dumgoyach/the West Highland Way. SW has of course put in a rough road up the bridge, and our ambition is eventually to make the remaining 1km easily walkable and even cyclable.

We are strictly limited for now to using hand-tools only but have scraped back the mud from one area to see if we can improve the drainage. The biggest challenge is the waterlogged area where the old track runs into a cutting, and we are considering a number of potential solutions.

We are planning a bigger work session in the summer, for which we will be asking for volunteers. More details to come, email Richard Baynes (baynesania@gmail.com) if you want to be put on the list. For insurance reasons we can't take people under 18, and it is important for good will and good relations that work on the track is only done by organised CDT groups.

Beating the litterbugs

Following in Jo Waterfield's footsteps, the community litter group restarted in June 2024 to help keep our area clean and safe and reduce the rubbish that reaches the waterways.

Since then, we have collected around 130 bags of rubbish from the village and surrounding areas including Mugdock, Abie's Loch, WHW, John Muir Way and Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. We have separated and recycled around 40-50% of this, reducing the landfill amount.

One of our volunteers has developed an online app for tracking the amount and location of the litter collected, and we are building up a useful picture of what's happening and where.

We regularly pick up cans, plastic bottles, alcohol bottles, takeaway cups and fast food packaging, plus an assortment of car-related material (hub caps, L-plates, wing mirrors), building materials, vapes, and bundles of used scratch cards. We have also seen some interesting items in odd places including a toaster, a builder's hat and some furry handcuffs!

We currently have 23 fantastic volunteers (thank you everyone!) and are always looking for more. It's a great way to keep active, get outdoors and meet others, while making a real difference to our area, wildlife and the wider environment. If you'd like to join us, or find out more, please contact Sarah at Sarah.outdoors@gmail.com.



Step Back in Time on The New Strathblane Heritage Trail

In the past few weeks you may have noticed the appearance around the community of a number of new information boards, focusing on local history. They are the work of Strathblane Heritage and mark the culmination of two years' of work, planning and fundraising. There are seven boards:

1. The trail starts at Strathblane Church.
2. The second board is outside the Village Club.
3. The third board, at the bottom of Campsie Dene Road.
4. The fourth board, half way down Station Road.
5. The fifth board, on the Gary Wright Way, is the pre-existing Railway Path sign.
6. The sixth board, near the Wildlife Sanctuary.
7. The final board is opposite Greens on Old Mugdock Road.

The circuit is two miles long on accessible paths and pavements and makes a pleasant fairly flat walk of 60 to 90 minutes, though all the information is replicated on www.strathblaneheritage.org for those with mobility problems or living remotely. There's even a drone version of the trail on the website, as well as a 3-D map, both created by local photographer Jamie Ballantine. The sketch map on each board has been created by local artist Amy Ricketts.

Anne Balfour, Co-Chair of Strathblane Heritage, said: "We hope the trail will help local residents appreciate some of the rich history of the community, as well as providing an interesting diversion for visitors."

The boards were produced by Kenwil of Kirkintilloch and with the generous support of the Paul Charitable Trust, the Hugh Fraser Foundation and Stirling Council. Keith Vass and friends installed them.

A free leaflet about the new trail is provided with this copy of the BVB, as well as an easy quiz. All the answers can be found on the information boards. If you want to be included in the prize draw, give us contact details and return your completed sheets to the collection box in the Thomas Graham Community Library by 5pm on Tuesday 30 June. Winners will receive vouchers to spend in the Kirkhouse Inn and M&Bs coffee shop. Good luck!

Regular Library Events

Thomas Graham Library, Strathblane. 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk		
Games Club For Grown Ups 	Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws etc fee and chat.	Tuesday Fortnightly 10.30am-12.30pm Contact the library for dates
Needles and Natter 	Knitting, embroidery, sewing, stitching, Tea/coffee & chat	Tuesday Fortnightly 10.30am-12.30pm Contact the library for dates
Film Discussion Club 	Come and watch, or chat about films Contact the Library for details	First Tuesday of the month 7.15pm – 9pm Restarts in September
Book Group 	Come and talk about a book! Contact the library for details	Third Tuesday of the month Restarts in September 7.30 p.m.-9.30p.m.
IT / Computer help with Library Volunteers 	Help with computer/ iPad issues and help with e-books etc.	Occasional Monday mornings. Contact the Library for an appointment
BookBug 	Babies and toddlers Rhymes and stories with wee ones. No need to book, just drop in	Friday June 26 th End of Term Bookbug! 2.30 p.m. – 3pm
	Fortnightly Thursdays 1-3pm (dependent on staff availability) Appointments only – contact CAB directly to book: 07498925159 peter.higgins@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk	Fortnightly Thursdays 1-3pm by appointment only through CAB.



Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – ‘Read to the Beat’



It's that time again! From the 22nd of June, the Library will be running the Summer Reading Challenge and this year it is all about music! Read books and get rewards. Pop into the Library (from 22nd June) to find out more and to register. Suitable for ages 4-11, with a mini challenge for those aged 0-3.

There will be a **Zine Making Workshop** (mini magazines) linked to the Challenge on Monday 13th July 2.15pm-3.30pm. Family friendly craft event, children under 8 must be accompanied. **Places free but limited, please book at the Library.**

Thomas Graham Community Library - Centre for Lifelong Learning

The Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL) at the University of Strathclyde is delighted to offer a range of engaging classes at the Thomas Graham Community Library in Strathblane.

See below for some of our forthcoming classes:

Famous Scottish Civil and Criminal Cases (14.07.26, 6pm-8pm - £17)

Discover landmark cases that have shaped justice in Scotland through engaging discussion and real courtroom stories.

“Theres been a murder!” (28.07.26, 6pm-8pm - £17)

How are criminal cases proved in Scotland? An interactive introduction to the Scottish law of evidence, exploring verdicts, corroboration and real criminal cases—ideal for anyone curious about the justice system.

The Psychology of “Traitors” (22.09.26, 6pm-8pm - £17)

Why do people betray their country, cause or allies? This fascinating session explores the psychology behind treachery, examining loyalty, ideology, fear and personal motivation through real historical examples.

Visit Centre for Lifelong Learning Online Catalogue to find out more and to book your spot.

