

# The View

March 2015

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council



## MINECRAFT HAS INVADED OUR LIBRARIES

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## NEW SCHOOLS ARE TOP CLASS

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# Council's £677m budget secures services

Package of measures to boost schools, roads, care homes and housing despite squeeze on public sector finances

By Duncan Jones

**F**UNDING arrangements have been agreed that will secure vital services across South Lanarkshire.

Despite growing pressure on public sector finances, local councillors have approved plans for the area's £677million revenue budget for 2015/16.

The budget outlines how money will be spent in key areas, including schools, roads, care homes, refuse collection, recycling and council housing.

Details have also been released of a £172m capital investment package for the next two financial years – money that will be used to improve the lives and life chances of local people of all ages.

At a special meeting of the council, it was also confirmed that the area's Council Tax

would be frozen for the eighth consecutive year.

However, Council Leader Eddie McAvoy warned that every year the money available to provide services appeared to be getting tighter.

"At the same time, as a result of our ageing population and because so many families are struggling in difficult economic conditions, local people need our services more than ever," added the Council Leader.

"It's been more difficult than ever to balance our budget this year. We've had to make some tough choices but I believe we've done everything we can to protect our most vital services, and our most vulnerable residents in these times of austerity."

Education, especially schools, remains the council's biggest financial responsibility, with more than £300m

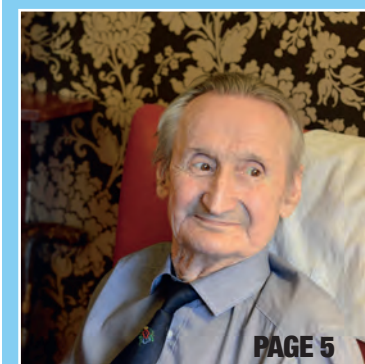
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## Golden era for school's sport programme



**GOOD SPORT:** Teenager Bethan Goodwin is a rising star in the netball world and is a product of Holy Cross High School's award-winning programme of sport. Read all about the reasons why the school has been granted the sportscotland Gold School Sport Award on page 3.

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## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Editor

Tom Little

### News editor

Andy Livingstone  
01698 455065

### Cover photograph

Anne-Janine Nugent

### Publisher

South Lanarkshire Council  
Produced by Communications  
and Strategy  
Floor 7

Council Offices Almada Street  
Hamilton ML3 0AA

Phone 01698 453975

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

### Payments

Phone 0303 123 1005

### Council tax and benefits

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format, please contact us  
to discuss how we can best  
meet your needs.  
Phone 01698 454959  
Email: [margaret.barr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.barr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



# MOTORWAY IMPROVEMENTS



By James Davitt

**C**ONSTRUCTION of one of Scotland's largest infrastructure projects has reached a major milestone with the first works on the main routes getting underway this month as part of the upgrading of Central Scotland's motorway network.

The M8/M73/M74 Motorway Improvements Project will see an investment of £500million to tackle congestion on the A8/M8, M73, M74 and at key junctions including Raith Interchange (A725/M74) and Shawhead Interchange (A725/A8).

Roads users across Lanarkshire who would normally travel via the busy Raith Interchange as part of their daily commute are being warned to expect some disruption as traffic restrictions continue until Spring 2017.

Due to the complexity of the construction works at Raith Interchange, traffic management will include speed restrictions, temporary lane closures/ lane narrowing, contraflow systems and diversions.

Graeme Reid, Project Sponsor for Transport Scotland, said: "We have reached a pivotal point in this three-year project, which now requires traffic management measures across the project. These are likely to cause some disruption to road users, especially at peak times.

"This major infrastructure investment will bring significant benefits to the local and wider



### CLEAR RUN:

Above, the new road design will keep 100,000 vehicles-a-day moving.

### POINT OF CONGESTION:

Left, the Raith interchange as it currently exists brings traffic to a standstill at peak times.

economy and will improve journey-time reliability, cut congestion and make our roads even safer for generations to come.

"Our biggest challenge is to keep the 100,000 vehicles that use these key routes every day moving while minimising disruption. Therefore, we would ask road users to plan their journeys to allow for these essential works."

Work is well underway to create an underpass below the existing roundabout, providing a free-flow link for traffic between

**"We have reached a pivotal point in this three-year project, which now requires traffic management measures across the project"**

the A725 Bellshill Bypass and the A725 East Kilbride Expressway, cutting out the existing delays due to congestion at Raith Interchange.

Three new bridges will be constructed to carry the M74 motorway and local traffic over the underpass, effectively separating the traffic on the A725 from that using the M74.

In addition, a dedicated on-slip to the M74 northbound will be constructed to provide access from Raith.

And it's not just road users who will reap the benefits. The improvement works will also create a dedicated cycleway and walkway from Bothwell to Strathclyde Country Park, providing much improved accessibility and safety for members of the local community by segregating pedestrians and cyclists from motorists.

Head of South Lanarkshire Council's Roads and Transportation Services, Gordon MacKay, said: "We recognise the scale of the engineering challenges involved in the current works and the inevitable consequence of some disruption to normal travel patterns, particularly during critical phases of the project.

"We would urge all road users to allow additional time for their journeys and refer to the Traffic Scotland website for details of forthcoming temporary traffic management arrangements."

Scottish Roads Partnership (SRP) – the consortium responsible for designing, financing and constructing the project's roads as well as operating and maintaining them for 30 years – will also carry out major improvements to key sections of the A8/M8, the M73 and M74.

## Vital services: Modernisation programme for council schools

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allocated from the revenue budget.

In other service areas, £140m has been earmarked for Social Work, while £110m will allow Community and Enterprise Resources to deliver services such as roads and lighting, leisure and recreation, cleansing and the environment. Almost £25m will go towards Housing and Technical Resources.

These sums do not include another £172m in capital expenditure as the council's three-year capital investment plan continues in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

This includes £114m to continue the council's schools modernisation programme. With all secondary schools already rebuilt, the primary school plans will deliver a total of 129 primaries. Another £2.4m will be spent on schools' information communication technology in the next two years.

The Council Leader tabled a number of key amendments to savings proposals that will maintain the number of teachers working in South Lanarkshire's schools in 2015/16.

Meanwhile, the council will also continue with its roads investment programme, with £24m to be spent improving and maintaining the 1400 miles of South Lanarkshire Council roads, while another £5m will go towards replacing street lighting columns.

Half a million pounds is available for the start of care home improvements, while a similar sum will be invested in cycling, walking and the safer streets initiatives.

Councillor McAvoy said: "The grant the council receives from the Scottish Government hasn't kept up with inflation, and funding changes that we strongly objected to last year have cut it by a further £3.5m.

"Overall, we've had to target almost £18m of savings this year. "Considerable further savings will be needed in future years, too.

"Because the council is already well run, every time we have to find further savings there is a danger they will bite deeper into the work we can do.

"But we will continue to do everything possible to protect essential frontline services."

The Housing Revenue and Capital Account budget included £42m of capital spending for 2015/16. This year council house rents will rise by 3.5 per cent, and the council will continue to harmonise rents to help tenants hit by historically higher costs.





## High school is top of the class with national award



**RANGE OF EXCELLENCE:** The school has been recognised for the extremely high quality it offers pupils across a wide variety of sports



**ON THE BALL:** Active Schools Co-ordinator Bridget Mathieson McLaughlan with netball star Bethan Goodwin

# GOOD SPORTS

By Sarah Burrows

**H**OLY CROSS High School has become the first school in South Lanarkshire to be awarded a prestigious sportsotland Gold School Sport Award.

The School Sport Award which has been awarded six times previously is a national initiative designed to encourage schools to continuously improve the quality and quantity of physical education and school

sport opportunities.

John Reilly, Head Teacher at Holy Cross High School, said: "This is a tremendous achievement for the whole school community of Holy Cross High School.

"In Holy Cross, we believe Physical Education is a life skill and a key part of a young person's health and wellbeing. We are confident that their positive experience of physical activity at school will remain with them throughout their lives."

The appetite for sport is evident at Holy Cross where pupils of all ages and abilities are encouraged to take part in at least one sports extracurricular activity.

Active Schools Co-ordinator Bridget Mathieson McLaughlan said: "We have young people who are responsible for sport from first year upwards and our school sports captains, Kathleen Toolan and Nathan Allison, were involved in receiving the Gold Flag.

One of the school's brightest sporting stars is Bethan Goodwin who, at the age

of just 15, is the youngest on the Scottish Netball squad and captained the Scottish team this month in the U17 Netball Europe Championships. Bethan was declared Player of the Tournament and is now waiting to hear if she will join the squad for their trip to Australia later in the year.

She said: "The school is great, as it encourages us all to really be the best we can be and reach high in any sport we fancy, and I hope to do the school and myself proud as I compete on a national stage."

## Bryan makes Connections to youngsters' PE

BROADCASTER and children's fitness campaigner Bryan Burnett has backed an innovative new programme aimed at ensuring early years pupils get the most out of PE in South Lanarkshire.

Bryan shared a stage with pupils from St Athanasius Primary in Carluke to launch the Connections Physical Education Resource Pack.

At a time of growing concern over childhood obesity, the programme has brought together teaching expertise and a range of partners behind the new early years programme to provide a resource to support teachers in the delivery of quality PE.

At the heart of the programme are two clear goals – the first is to provide teachers with a package structured enough to give them the support they need regardless of their own knowledge and confidence in delivering PE, yet flexible enough to be tailored to the needs and timetables of individual classes and schools.



The second goal is to ensure that the 3500-plus children in their first year at all of South Lanarkshire's primary schools receive two hours a week of high-standard physical education and thousands more children in nursery classes have access to quality experiences. The resource pack also promotes problem solving, independent learning, team work and confidence.

South Lanarkshire Council's Chair of Education, Councillor Jean McKeown,

said: "This exciting, colourful and practical resource has been developed for teachers working with children between the ages of three to six as they progress through their nursery years into the early stages of primary school.

"It comprises lesson cards, a music CD and a manual with a wide range of learning activities designed to keep children fit and healthy. Learning through exploration, stories and rhymes is both

### FIT FOR PURPOSE:

Celebrating the launch of Connections are (left to right) broadcaster and children's fitness campaigner Bryan Burnett; pupils Dylan Hastings and Niamh Baillie; and Team Scotland Hockey star Ailsa Wyllie.

stimulating and fun and this is what we want to achieve - a real interest and passion for learning at an early age.

The resource is a key part of a project led by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, the University of Glasgow, NHS Lanarkshire, the University of West of Scotland and Scottish Borders Council.

The team involved in putting the Connections Resource together are all current practitioners with expertise in early years education.

SLLC's General Manager Gerry Campbell said: "South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture recognises the importance of focusing on the range of learning opportunities in physical education and we are therefore delighted to have led the project, working closely with the other key partners to tap into the maximum potential of the resource and ensure a successful roll out and implementation."





# DON'T IDLE AWAY YOUR KIDS' HEALTH



By Mhairi Anderson

**P**ARENTS are being urged to switch on to protecting their children's health by switching off their car engines when parked outside school gates – or risk being fined.

When the days are cold, it's always tempting to keep the engine running at school drop-off and pick-up times but this has a detrimental impact on the quality of the air children are being forced to breathe in.

And it's potentially exposing the health of thousands of youngsters being dropped off and picked up from school across South Lanarkshire to a poisonous cocktail of harmful emissions.

Children are more vulnerable to air pollution because they have a larger lung surface area in relation to their weight and they breathe 50 per cent more air per pound of body weight than adults.

In a bid to spread the message Environmental Services Officers have been patrolling school gate pollution hotspots since January, warning parents about the dangers of idling and reminding them to switch off their engines while parked – or face a fine.

Engine idling unnecessarily is an offence and those failing to comply with a request to comply could be hit with a £20 fixed-penalty notice. Officers will also distribute information warning drivers about the harmful effects of failing to switch off.

## The facts are:

■ **Restarting your engine does not use more fuel than idling**

According to the Consumer Energy Centre, idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your car.

■ **Idling your car is not the best way to warm your car in cold weather**

The best way to warm up a car is to drive it.

■ **Frequent restarting is not hard on the engine and battery**

Frequent restarting has little impact on engine parts such as the battery and starter motor.

■ **Excessive idling is hard on engines**

Excessive idling can damage

cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems.

■ **How idling affects health and the environment**

■ **An idling vehicle emits 20 times more pollution than one travelling at 30mph.**

By turning off your engine you can reduce pollution

■ **Emissions from vehicles contribute to global warming**

Vehicle emissions contain carbon that mixes with air to form carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming.

■ **Idling wastes fuel and money**

Every 10 minutes' of engine idling wastes at least one-tenth of a litre of fuel.

■ **Air pollutants from an idling engine are respiratory irritants**

These pollutants can increase asthma symptoms.

■ **Children breathe 50 per cent more air per pound of body weight than adults**

This makes children more vulnerable to the effects of pollution

■ **Children's lungs have a lot of growing to do to reach adulthood**

From birth to adulthood, if we grew arms at the same rate as lungs, we would all have three arms by the time we reach adulthood. We need to protect those lungs as best we can during this development period.

■ **What can you do to help?**

■ **Walk, cycle or use public transport to travel to school**

Leave the car behind and use more active ways to travel to

school. Children and adults all benefit from being more physically active – use the school commute to improve your health and reduce pollution.

■ **Park further away from the school**

Consider driving only part of the way to school and walking the rest of the way. This reduces the amount of pollution at the school particularly at the school drop-off and pick-up points.

■ **Turn off your engine**

As a rough guide, if you are going to be parked for more than 30 seconds turn off your engine

Vehicle exhaust emissions contain a toxic range of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, hydrocarbons and particulate matter, which can affect the air quality of the immediate environment and beyond.

When an engine is left idling it can produce up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion.

Air pollutants irritate and cause inflammation of the lungs, as well as

lowering resistance to respiratory infections such as influenza. People with heart and lung conditions are particularly susceptible and 62 per cent of people with asthma report that traffic fumes make their condition worse.

Older people are also vulnerable to exhaust emissions, as they are less able to compensate for the effects of pollution, while poor air quality can aggravate any pre-existing health issues among the elderly.

"To support our campaign we would

very much appreciate everyone's help," said Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of Community Services Committee. "Many people idle their vehicles because they think it is better for their cars or uses less fuel. This is not the case and we must protect our children all we can from the harmful pollutants we cause when we keep our engines running while stationary."

## Driving home the fair parking message

By James Davitt

BE Fair or Be Fined – that's the message from South Lanarkshire Council to anyone parking in disabled bays who is not entitled to do so.

The council has been encouraging people to leave disabled bays for use by blue badge holders.

The Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Finance and Corporate Resources Committee and the Council's Spokesperson for Disability, Councillor Gerry Convery, said: "Anyone parking in a disabled bay who is not obeying the rules of the blue badge scheme is selfish and irresponsible.

"They deserve to be punished and as a council we are determined to crack down on any misuse.

"The blue badges are for individuals and can only be used if you are either the driver or passenger in a vehicle.

"People should be aware that letting someone else use your blue badge is against the law and can result in fines of up to £1000 – as well as losing your blue badge.

### Some of the key message

Being "just a minute" is not a disability

A big car is not a disability

A family is not a disability

Nowhere to park is not a disability

"The vast majority of people who have blue badges use them in the correct manner and adhere to the 'rights and responsibilities' leaflet they get along with the documentation.



"It is only a selfish minority who are not obeying the rules and it is these people who we will be targeting."

Anyone entitled to use a blue badge should make sure it is displayed correctly – on the dashboard or fascia and with the photo and other relevant details facing down so it can be easily read by a parking attendant. Failure to do so could result in a fine.

Parking signs in the area should also be checked to ensure blue badge holders can legally park.

If the badge is lost or stolen, this must be reported immediately to the police or local council.

All the details on the rules of the blue badge scheme can be found at:

[www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org).

More details on the eligibility criteria for the scheme is available from the council's website at: [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)





# Stepping into a bygone era with the Living Room

By Lynne Carstairs

**R**ESIDENTS of an East Kilbride care home can step back in time following the creation of a 1950s themed reminiscence room.

Named simply the 'Living Room', the space at Meldrum Gardens, in East Kilbride, has been lovingly decorated and kitted out to recreate the era when the majority of residents were in their prime.

And many of the precious items that pepper the sideboards and fireplace have been donated by residents themselves, adding a further authenticity and personal touch to the unique room.

Jillian Colliar, one of the team at Meldrum, explained: "At one of our regular meetings, we were chatting about ways that we could better make use of space to enhance the environment and create an area that would benefit our service users, as well as offering some kind of therapeutic value.

"The suggestion of a social area not only for reminiscing but to help those using it to rekindle forgotten skills, such as knitting, letter writing, brass polishing and listening to the radio and music, was a hit with everyone. And so the 'Living Room' was born."

Work on creating the room started last October and, thanks to the "massive support" from staff, families and visitors, it was completed in time for Meldrum's 10th Anniversary celebrations just two months' later.

Added Jillian: "The project really sparked the imagination of



**REVISITING PAST DAYS:** The Living Room is a loving recreation of a room in a 1950s home.

everyone associated with Meldrum and we were overwhelmed with donations from staff, families and colleagues. We received so many items that our service users could relate to, including war medals, old newspapers, brass polishing kit, typewriters, and even an antique Singer sewing machine and a writing bureau.

"We are also indebted to staff members Andy Robertson and Ellen Polland whose eye for detail has added so much to the feeling of the room."

This work has meant the room has been designed to resemble an 'old close' complete with retro signage. Ian Reynolds, Meldrum's maintenance operative, also gave up a lot of his own time to help with building the vintage fireplace and heater surrounds.

Those using it have also had a huge influence on the final design. And resident Jimmy Bias donated a lot of his own items to furnish the 'Living Room' to reflect life as he knew it more than five decades ago.

Now, the 76-year-old is enjoying rekindling memories in an environment so evocative of his youth. Born just a year before the outbreak of WW2 on

the tiny island of Eigg, Jimmy was one of the four children of farm workers Fred and Jeanette.

The family moved to Fife in 1940 and Jimmy left school aged 15. He met his wife Mayra in the Grand Café in East Kilbride's Old Coach Road and the pair set up home together in the new town in the late 1950s.

He said: the 'Living Room' is very nice and so much like I remember. My mother and father had similar furniture to this and it has been lovely to bring some of my own things in here. The wally pig [hot water bottle] in the fireplace is the same as one I used on chilly evenings to heat the bed.

"And, the wooden walking stick by the fireplace was my wife's great, great grandfather's. I really do enjoy being in here and think every place should have a room just like this."

Concluded Jillian: "The room has exceeded not only our expectations, but also the expectations of those who use it, their families and visitors to the home. The contents and set-up constantly evolve and change to meet different needs. Service-users benefit greatly from this and enjoy the environment and atmosphere that has been created by them and us."

## Jimmy Bias – a life less ordinary

JIMMY was born in August 1938 on the Island of Eigg into a family of two brothers – Freddy & George – and one sister, Evelyn.

He lived on Eigg until aged two when his farm worker parents moved to the mainland, and the family moved several times throughout his childhood, which Jimmy remembers as a "very happy one".

He left school at the age of 15 and went to work on farms in Fife, feeding 1000 pigs a day, "which kept me busy".



### INTERESTING TIMES:

76-year-old resident of Meldrum Gardens, Jimmy Bias, has led a varied and happy life.

Aged 16, he had a metal rod inserted in a displaced hip – so when he was called up for National Service he was quickly excused and discharged after just 42 days.

Jimmy had a number of varied jobs including working on the buses and with the council Water Department, but he was mostly a driver for Scotbeef where his job was to collect all of the bones from the butcher shops to be made into bone meal.

During this time, Jimmy was involved in an accident which led to a further operation to have metal pins inserted in his right leg.

He first met his beloved wife, Mayra, in the Grand Café in East Kilbride and, when he bumped into her later at the East Kilbride Cattle Show, they "got talking". The couple toured all round Scotland, firstly on a motorbike and latterly in a small van which was fitted out with a stove and mattress.





# In tough times, Money Matters

By Andrew Thompson

**F**AMILIES with young children, carers and cancer patients are among key groups who received £21million in benefits awards thanks to the support of South Lanarkshire's Money Matters Advice Service (MMAS).

A report has revealed that MMAS advisors worked with 6628 people in the 12 months to September 2014, with nearly 4000 of them new clients.

The report underlines the significant impact that Welfare Reform is having in South Lanarkshire and warns that it is an area of where the need for advice and support will continue to grow.

Welfare Reform, however, is just part of the story. A range of newly-introduced services have played a significant part in increasing the number of clients Money Matters Advisors has been able to support.

A welfare rights support service established by Money Matters, working with South Lanarkshire Carers Network Ltd, has helped 1995 carers and people who are cared-for to access £7.25million a year in benefits awards and £1.36m in backdated payments.

In partnership with the cancer support charity Macmillan, Money Matters provided benefits advice to 1400 clients that resulted in 1247 people with cancer applying for benefits and a total of £3.1m in awards being secured.

In addition to benefits advice, MMAS also offers support in dealing with debt.

During the year to September 30, 2014, a total of 2896 clients received debt advice, and 999 of those were struggling with multiple debts that added up to nearly £13m.

Launched in January 2014 with funding from the Scottish Legal Aid Board, another new project, Making Advice Work, offers support to people who disagree with benefit decisions by helping them to gather information and evidence to support their claims at the start of the process.

Making Advice Work is designed to help claimants complete the Department of Work and Pensions' new mandatory reconsideration process more speedily by gathering all the evidence and information at the start of the process.

During its first year, the project supported 239 appeals and helped secure £813,836 in benefit awards and backdated payments.

**"If you are worried about money, get in touch and ask for advice at the earliest opportunity"**



**HELPING WITHOUT JUDGING:** Hamilton-based Money Matters Advisor Carrie Rankin (front) with the friendly faces of her fellow advisors from offices around South Lanarkshire.

A freephone advice line set up to help pregnant women and families with young children who are worried about Welfare Reform, making ends meet and/or rising debt has also seen MMAS assisting hundreds of new clients – 230 callers in the first six months of 2014/15.

Welcoming the report, South Lanarkshire's Executive Director of Social Work, Harry Stevenson, said: "Our Money Matters Advice Service is making a real difference to people's lives with the team of Advisors, based in local offices, able to help with often complex and confusing issues involving debt, benefits and budgeting."

"While the Money Matters frontline team does a fantastic job in our communities, we must not forget the vital role that the back office team does, especially in ensuring all the advice and support is based on the most up-to-date information."

The Chair of South Lanarkshire Social Work Resources Committee, Councillor Allan Falconer, said: "I am delighted by the

success of the new Money Matters services for groups such as carers and people who are cared-for, people with cancer and pregnant women and families with young children.

"Providing much-needed additional support for these groups while continuing the hard work, and success, in providing help with benefits, debt and budgeting demonstrates the commitment of the whole team."

"The figures indicate the difficult time people are having and I would reiterate the message that, if you are worried about money, get in touch and ask for advice at the earliest opportunity."

Carrie Rankin, a Money Matters Advisor based in the Hamilton local office, said: "Benefits reform, out-of-control debt, unscrupulous lenders, the impact of the economic downturn – my clients can be dealing with any one or of these issues or even all of them and more but, as Advisors, we do not judge them, we simply aim to give them the best advice and support possible."

## Speaking out on bullying and discrimination

A CAMPAIGN calling for an end to discriminatory language and bullying in playgrounds, streets and workplaces has been backed by South Lanarkshire Council.

Stonewall Scotland's NoBystanders campaign calls on individuals and organisations to commit to challenging bullying and discrimination wherever they see it, and stand up for fairness and kindness.

Organisations can sign a pledge which states: "I will never be a bystander to bullying and teasing language. If I hear it, I will call it out and if I can, I will stop it. By adding my name I promise to stand up for fairness, kindness and never be a bystander."

The pledge was signed on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council by Chief Executive Lindsay Freeland, while General Manager Gerry Cambell signed on behalf of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd.

Mr Freeland said: "No one should feel threatened or intimidated by anyone using discriminatory language, whether it's on our streets, in our workplaces or in our schools."

"The pledge basically means not standing by and accepting language or behaviour that you might think unacceptable."

"As a council we are committed to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation in all its forms and we want to foster good relations so that South Lanarkshire is safe and welcoming place for us all to live in, work in and visit."

"Signing the pledge is another example of that."

Stonewall Scotland Director, Colin Macfarlane, said: "Stonewall Scotland is pleased that South Lanarkshire Council has today pledged to not be a bystander and to stand up against all forms of discrimination."

"By publicly making this commitment, the council is sending out a strong and powerful signal that it will work to ensure the people of South Lanarkshire feel safe and secure at work, at home, at school and in their communities."

"We look forward to working with South Lanarkshire Council to help them achieve this aim."



**FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS:** South Lanarkshire Council Chief Executive Lindsay Freeland (right) with Simon Cameron, Organisational Development and Diversity Adviser





# Rolling out a greener future

## Waste and recycling changes mean an eco-friendlier South Lanarkshire

### New recycling timescales are:

- **Hamilton area – June to December 2015**
- **East Kilbride area – January to April 2016**
- **Rutherglen and Cambuslang – May to August 2016**
- **Clydesdale – September to December 2016**

**Full calendar details will be widely publicised in advance of the new arrangements**

**N**EW bin collection arrangements are set to roll out across South Lanarkshire.

Like every council in the land, South Lanarkshire has a statutory obligation to provide a food waste collection service.

A widespread information and publicity campaign will be launched soon explaining and promoting the new waste collection. Full calendar details will be widely publicised in advance of the new arrangements.

Around 133,000 households will get a small food waste kitchen caddy and a fourth, new outdoor bin.

The roll-out will be handled in four phases, starting in the Hamilton area in June 2015, with all households included in the new scheme by the end of 2016.

“We know this will take a bit of getting used to, and we’re asking for everyone’s co-operation and patience as we introduce the changes,” said Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Community Services Committee.

“Not only are we obliged by law to do so, but the move is good for the environment, helping us to meet Scottish Government recycling targets of 60% by 2020,” added Councillor Stewart.

A phased distribution of food waste caddies and new bins starts in Hamilton, Ferniegair, Stonehouse, Larkhall, Ashgill, Quarter, Blantyre and Uddingston areas in the summer until December.

All households in the East Kilbride area will receive the new service between January and April, 2016, moving on to Rutherglen and Cambuslang between May and August, then Clydesdale from September to December.

“Feedback on the new service is vital to success. During the initial Hamilton phase customer satisfaction and participation surveys will take place as will tonnage and waste composition analysis. All this information will help further phases in the roll out of the new collection service,” stressed Councillor Stewart.

**“The move is good for the environment, helping us to meet Scottish Government recycling targets of 60% by 2020.”**



■ **The Scottish Government introduced The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which requires all councils to provide a separate food waste collection service to every household from January 2016.**





1

### St Bride's Primary School

THE new St Bride's Primary School is a colourful addition to the Cambuslang skyline and offers pupils a spacious, bright and inspiring building in which to learn.

The new £8.5million school was built by construction partner Keir and has 12 classrooms, fully-equipped nursery accommodation, gym hall with stage, ICT suite and lots of general purpose areas.

Externally there is a Multi-Use Games Area, which is timetabled so that – as well as using it as an external PE space – all classes have a chance to enjoy it at break times.

Head Teacher Patricia Cullion said: "We are over the moon with our new school. What a difference it makes to have computer access and wi-fi in all of our classrooms,

and the children the touch screen

"The school is modern learning of break-out are purpose spaces for a variety of t



3

# NEW SCHOOLS ARE TOP

The council's £800million-plus Primary already built 103 modern primary schools, Support Needs bases, 13 community wings, programme will continue apace until 129 e we gain a glimpse of three of the most rec



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### Park View Primary School

IN Halfway, pupils at the brand new Park View Primary School have settled in well to their building, and the whole of the school community recently gathered to mark the official opening of the £6.5million facility.

It was evident that the teaching

and support staff at the school had prepared the pupils well for their moment in the spotlight as the children's talents shone through.

The local community and friends of the school were thoroughly entertained by every one of the school's 121 pupils who sang, danced, recited poetry and showed off their diverse talents throughout the event.

Maria Speirs, Park View's Head Teacher, said: "Our new school is a happy, vibrant and innovative place in which to learn and work. Our staff are so committed and enthusiastic and our children are so eager to learn. I'd like to thank everyone involved with the opening ceremony for making it one to remember."



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(6) EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION: The staff gather outside their new workplace, designed for 21st century teaching.

(7) ALL SMILES: Delight was evident at the opening ceremony.

(8) FIRST IMPRESSION: The pleasant approach to the school entrance.

(9) HAPPY DAYS: Thrilled with their new school are (left to right) Ashley Rinn, Eva Black, Lori Park, Megan McPake, with Councillor Walter Brogan who conducted the official opening.



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...love learning with  
...ns in all classes.  
...s fantastic for  
...g, with plenty  
...as and general  
...s that can be used  
...asks.”



**(1) MULTI-PURPOSE:**

The large gym hall can be used for a variety of sports and performances.

**(2) BUILDING FUTURES:**

The new St Bride's Primary School is a local landmark.

**(3) MOTIVATION:**

Inspiring messages remind everyone of the school's ethos.

**(4) PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT:**

The interior is bright, spacious and imaginative.

**(5) TIME FOR PLAY:**

The outdoor facilities let children keep active at break times.



# SCHOOLS AND CLASS

Schools Modernisation Programme has including 53 nursery classes, 19 Additional and eight stand-alone nursery centres. The establishments have been rebuilt, and here ent new primaries to be officially opened.



## St Peter's Primary School

**(10) PROUD PERFORMERS:** The whole school gave a rendition of the Katy Perry song, Roar, to start the official opening.

**(11) TOP MARKS FOR QUALITY:** St Peter's PS head teacher Elizabeth McGlynn and Councillor Jean McKeown, Chair of Education are impressed with the standard of the facilities.

**(12) COLOURFUL EXTERIOR:** The new school has an eye-catching design.

IN Hamilton, the new £6million St Peter's Primary School also recently celebrated its official opening in style as invited guests had a look round the new premises.

Guests were treated to a whole-school rendition of Katy Perry's hit song, Roar, which certainly got the event off to an energetic start before being entertained by all pupils through a variety of music, dance and song.

Head Teacher Elizabeth McGlynn welcomed everyone to the event, and said: "I was pleased to see so many familiar faces in the audience – staff past and present, parents and very good friends of the school.

"Our official opening was an important day in our school's history



and I'm sure it is one that all our pupils will remember for the rest of their lives. The pupils worked very hard to perfect their performances and have been very excited about showing off their beautiful new school."







## Community celebrates decade of success after town hall restoration



**LOCAL LANDMARK:** Rutherglen Town Hall restored to its former glory 10 years ago.



**TERRIFIC TEN:** Assistant Venue Manager Rebecca Batchelor (front) with Venue Manager Colin McWilliams, Catering Manager Pauline Docherty and Facilities Assistant Frank Colgan celebrate the revamped venue's first decade.



**PAINSTAKING RESTORATION:** The £12.5million project in 2005 was a massive undertaking.

# Ten out of ten!

By Mhairi Anderson

**R**UTHERGLEN Town Hall has been the focus of a major community celebration marking the 10th anniversary of its massive £12.5million refurbishment.

The restoration project in 2005 successfully returned the sandstone building to its former glory and re-established it as the beating heart of the town.

The 10-year milestone was marked by 10 shows in 10 days of fabulous celebration, culminating in an anniversary party.

And enjoying one of those shows, was local boy Noah Miles, who was born the same year that the restoration was carried out.

The Burnside Primary pupil is a frequent visitor to the facility and, as a birthday treat, Noah's gran, Margaret Millar, took him to see Town Hall's special screening of *Lady and the Tramp*.

She said: "The number of really different things that are on offer at the Town Hall makes it ideal for Noah and me – there is always something to interest us both."

"With Noah and the 'new' Town Hall being the same age, he has never known it any other way... and he loves it!"

Firmly established as a community hub, the Town Hall is the focus for a varied range of events and parties and even welcomed a royal guest when Princess Anne visited in February 2007.

But it was a very different story when South Lanarkshire was formed in 1996 and the council inherited a jaded, dilapidated building that had fallen into dreadful state of disrepair.

The council vowed to the people of Rutherglen that it would give them back their town hall by faithfully restoring it to its former glory.

And it did just that when, in 2001, the council embarked on what was its single largest capital project to breathe fresh life into the decaying building, with support from Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund for Scotland.

The results were stunning when the Town Hall proudly re-opened its doors to the public in 2005.



**BIRTHDAY BOY:** 10-year-old Noah Miles was born the same year as the Town Hall was reborn.

Ten years later and there is no doubt this has been the case, as it recently welcomed its millionth visitor as testament to the venue's key role within the local community.

Council leader Eddie McAvooy said: "Since Rutherglen Town Hall re-opened its doors with a warm welcome 10 years ago, the venue has given a sense of community back to the people of Rutherglen."

"We are delighted that people come from far and near to enjoy this magnificent venue that has brought our community together, as no other venue could possibly do."

Ten of the current staff have worked at the town hall for the 10 years since it reopened.

Catering Assistant Jane Chalmers said: "Working here at the Town Hall over the past decade has been quite the journey. I have met many people from every walk of life – from people in the local community to actors, musicians,

politicians, journalists and even royalty.

"The town hall is an integral part of the community and I have made many personal friendships over the past 10 years."

Assistant Venue Manager Rebecca Batchelor said she had been delighted to see the town hall go from strength to strength over the past 10 years.

"I am lucky that I can honestly say I love my job and I love working at the town hall," said Rebecca. "I have been involved with the set-up and development of the venue since day one and witnessed the town hall, and its staff, flourish."

Local people, community groups and businesses are all regular users of the town hall for everything from birthday and engagement parties to wedding receptions and corporate functions, including the Toryglan branch of Asda, which has returned annually to host its staff 'Oscar awards'.

The continuing success of the town hall

stems from the strong grass roots support it receives from local people, including Matt Laird and his family.

"We enjoy doing arts, exhibitions, shows and hold political meetings in this majestic town hall," said Matt, whose wife is a regular contributor to the craft fair.

"My personal highlight was when I sang with the rock/pop chorus last June in front of a full house with our choirmaster Lorna Dolan."

Elizabeth Arbuckle, Chair of Cambuslang and Rutherglen Sports Council, is another huge town hall fan.

"I would like to thank Rutherglen Town Hall and their great team for all their efforts over the past 10 years," she said.

"They have helped to make our annual sports awards an outstanding success. Nothing is too much bother, they always go out of their way to help and support on the day."

A host of people of all ages and from all walks of life have passed through the doors over the last decade, but all are agreed on one thing: it has been a top ten years!

**"We are delighted that people come from far and near to enjoy this magnificent venue"**





**BAG IT, BIN IT:**  
Dog owners are being encouraged to be responsible.



# Dealing with dog fouling is fine by Community Wardens

By Andy Livingstone

**D**OG owners who allow their pets to foul in public places and don't clean up behind them should be prepared to face a fine as a new initiative is introduced across South Lanarkshire.

The council's Community Wardens have been given powers to issue fixed-penalty notices for dog fouling and littering.

In response to feedback from residents, the initiative has begun with a four-week pilot in Greenhills Square and the surrounding areas.

Throughout the beginning of the

initiative, the Community Wardens have provided advice and free dog-waste bags to dog walkers in the area to educate owners and promote more responsible dog ownership.

The following three weeks have seen Community Wardens issuing on-the-spot fines to any people they witness not cleaning up after their dogs.

Annette Finnan, Head of Area Services at South Lanarkshire Council, said: "Dog fouling is a priority issue for residents and it is important that we work together to promote responsible dog ownership that will keep our open spaces clean and accessible for everyone to enjoy.

"The problem is a concern to residents in communities across South Lanarkshire and this initiative will be rolled out across all four council areas. The pilot has started in the Greenhills area following particular issues raised by local residents about the level of irresponsible dog ownership, and we hope that success is achieved here that we can build on across South Lanarkshire."

■ **Anyone who would like to report dog fouling in Greenhills Square that could support the initiative or who would like any further information can contact Ian Gray, Community Warden Team Leader, on 0141 584 2601.**



**ON THE SPOT:** Wardens have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for dog-fouling.

## Illegal traders are threatening animal welfare

By Lynne Carstairs

WOULD-BE pet owners are being urged to be vigilant when buying dogs and puppies.

South Lanarkshire's Consumer and Trading Standards Service has issued the warning after becoming aware of an increase in the trade of animals being imported illegally from abroad.

The current concern is mainly around certain breeds of small dog, often the favoured purchase for families looking to bring a pet into their homes.

But such illegal trade puts the health of the animals and the public at risk from diseases including rabies.

Explained Shirley Clelland, Head of Fleet and Environmental Services: "Although the UK has been free

from rabies for many years, it is still present in many countries. That is precisely why we have such strict importation controls for pet animals.

"All dogs (and cats) must be microchipped and vaccinated against rabies before entering the UK. Dogs must also be treated for tapeworm.

"If your new pet is found to be illegally imported and not complying with disease-control rules, you could find yourself having to pay for costly quarantine and veterinary bills or your new pet may have to be put down. Vigilance can make all the difference."

**The team has issued some advice for those thinking of buying a dog or puppy:**

- Buy from a local breeder if possible.
- Ask for the vaccination card, but be aware that these are easy to fake. If the vet's contact details are not visible or has a non-UK address, the card may be false.
- For imported puppies, ask to see the pet passport or vet's certificate confirming it is micro-chipped, vaccinated against rabies, treated for worms and was older than three months and 21 days when it was imported.
- Always see a puppy with its mother. Ideally ask to see the father, too, or at least a photo of the father. Be suspicious if the breeder cannot show you either.
- Do not sign any paperwork without checking if first, as it makes it legally hard to challenge if you are unhappy with the puppy you are sold.
- If possible, pay by credit card or cheque rather than cash and always ask for a receipt.

Pedigree certificates are not a guarantee of the condition of your dog and may not even mean the puppy is pure-bred. Contact the Kennel Club for details of the Accredited Breeder Scheme.

Anyone worried about a puppy they have been sold should contact a vet for advice and treatment. If you have information about illegally imported puppies contact Trading Standards on 01698 455696 or [consumer.enquiries@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:consumer.enquiries@southlanarkshire.gov.uk).



**PET CARE:** Illegal trading in puppies puts the animals and public at risk of diseases.



**HOME GROWN:**

ultimately 1500 new homes will be built in the Newton Community Growth Area.



# Homing in on a new community

By Lynne Carstairs

**W**ORK on the second phase of a major project designed to create an entirely new community in Cambuslang has been given the green light.

Members of the council's Planning Committee approved an application by Taylor Wimpey West Scotland to build 612 new homes on a 62-hectare site adjacent to the village of Newton.

The houses are part of the 128-hectare Newton Community Growth Area that has been earmarked in the South Lanarkshire Local Plan and will ultimately create 1500 new homes.

As part of Phase One, 600 homes and a new denominational primary school

have already been completed, and additional elements proposed as part of the master plan include:

- A new non-denominational primary school and contributions towards secondary schooling
- New neighbourhood retail centre;
- Third-generation all-weather football pitch;
- Approximately 70 hectares of open space, landscaping and recreational areas;
- Three children's play areas;
- New distributor road;
- Major road infrastructure improvements.

Councillors also heard that the development will offer a mix of properties, ranging from one-bedroom apartments to four- and five-bedroom detached homes.

Councillor Hugh Dunsmuir, Chair of the Planning Committee, said: "Under the South Lanarkshire Local Plan, this area is one of a handful earmarked by council officials as offering the potential to fulfil the growth and housing supply identified by the Structure Plan team.

"To date, significant work has taken place to fulfil that brief, including the creation of 600 new homes and a new school. And, despite the economic issues the country has faced since the plans were first approved in 2010, I am delighted to see that the developers are set to begin Phase Two.

"We are witnessing a new community emerging and developing, creating a positive impact on the infrastructure and economy of the local area and of South Lanarkshire as whole."

## New Burnside school

A £7.7MILLION plan to improve and extend Burnside Primary School has been approved by councillors.

The proposal is part of the Council's £856m Primary Schools Modernisation Programme and will retain and refresh the existing building, which was completed in 2005.

In detail, the plan includes:

- Partial demolition of the existing school and erection of a new two-storey extension to accommodate additional classrooms, gym facilities, dining area, toilets and 'spill out' areas;
- Improved staff parking
- Drop-off and turning area
- MUGA pitch
- Vehicle access to a 34-space car park from Glenlui Avenue

During the build, which is scheduled to start this summer, pupils will be decanted to the former Spittal Primary School campus.

## Harvesting the wind

A SMALL windfarm is to be created south of Elvanfoot.

Crookedstane Windfarm Ltd was granted detailed planning permission for the four 126-metre turbines on a 43-hectare site adjacent to the Clyde Windfarm, by councillors on February's Planning Committee.

The development could produce up to 9.2mW of electricity – enough to power up to 2000 households.



THE Consumer and Trading Standards service now has its own Facebook page.

The watchdog hopes that social media will prove a new and effective way of communicating with consumers about everything from scams and sales to home safety.

It will also become a focus for information for the council's approved trader scheme, Buy with Confidence.

■ Log onto Facebook and search 'South Lanarkshire Consumer and Trading Standards'.

## PICTURE THE SCENE Bumper entry for photography competition

SOUTH Lanarkshire's annual photographic competition marked its tenth anniversary with a bumper entry from amateur snappers.

The competition is open to all residents and visitors to South Lanarkshire and entries to this year's event put into focus the great depth of talent it attracts every year.

Organised by South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture, the competition features junior and adult sections with six entry categories for each age group, and all images entered must have been taken in South Lanarkshire within the last five years.

The 2014 awards were presented by Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

He said: "The photographic competition has gone from strength to strength over the years and I am delighted to see so many entries again this year from locals and visitors alike.



**PICTURE PERFECT:** Overall Adult Winner Steven McAllister's entry, Road to a Landscape, left and Calder Water, by Overall Junior Winner Sarah Hoggan, aged 11.

"It was very difficult indeed to choose winners from such an excellent array of entries. Congratulations to the winners. Thanks must go to the Opus V photography Group and all who helped make this such a successful and growing annual event."

First Place in the Adult Section and the Overall Competition Winner, was Steven McAllister, of Viewpark. Steven's



entry, Road to a Landscape, was in Category Three of the competition (Scenes: Rural/Landscapes), and earned him an engraved glass trophy and an award certificate.

First place in the Junior Section and Overall Junior Winner with her entry, Calder Water, was 11-year-old Sarah Hoggan, of Glassford. Her entry was in Junior Category Three (Scenes: Rural/Landscapes),

and a delighted Sarah was also presented with an award certificate and an engraved glass trophy.

An exhibition of many of the entries is being staged at Calderglen Country Park and is attracting strong interest among local enthusiasts, and there's still time to go along before it finishes on April 9.

Meanwhile, anyone wanting to take part in next year's competition, which will include the special category, 'South Lanarkshire at Night', can obtain an entry form by contacting Chatelherault Country Park on 01698 426213 or by emailing [chatelheraultcountrypark@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk](mailto:chatelheraultcountrypark@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk).

■ The adult entry fee is £5 per person per category while entry to the junior section is free, and the categories include People at Work/Traditional Skills, Scenes: Towns/Villages, Scenes: Rural/Landscape, A Great Day Out/Active Sports/Pastimes, Wildlife: Wild Animals and Wildlife: Wild Flowers/Plants.

## Go-ahead for flats

TWENTY flats are to be built in Strathaven.

Three blocks of apartments – the highest will be four storeys in height – are to be constructed in Kirk Street on a town centre site that has lain derelict since 2012.

Councillors approved the plans by Advance Construction Ltd at the most recent meeting of South Lanarkshire's Planning Committee.





# New centre is a Hub for training and employment

By James Davitt

**A** NEW skills and training centre which will help businesses and jobseekers across South Lanarkshire has opened in East Kilbride.

The EK Work and Training Hub is the result of a commitment by the East Kilbride Task Force to help people access employability services and respond effectively to business needs.

South Lanarkshire Council has agreed to lead on the project and the Hub will be based in East Kilbride Town Centre (next door to JobcentrePlus).

The Hub builds on the council's successful South Lanarkshire Works 4 U jobs access programme and provides a partnership venue and focus to help local people and businesses.

Partnership organisations such as Jobcentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland, training providers, local retailers from the Town Centre, colleges and the community and voluntary sector will all be asked for their input in making sure the best opportunities are available.

The Depute Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Enterprise Services Committee, Councillor Graham Simpson, said: "We remain committed to do what we can to help people back into work and to grow our sustainable business base.

"We appreciate that for some people it is still difficult to find the right job.

"The new Hub will provide an easy-to-use service in an informal environment

"There will be access to computers and the web to help people prepare CVs and Job Search as well online access to benefits. Staff will be on hand to support people with this.

"We can also provide advice on accessing training or further education, all with the goal of helping people back into employment.

"The prominent town centre location has been made available as a result of effective partnership working with the town centre management. The council has invested in the refurbishment.

"This partnership will help local business, local people and local partnerships. The East Kilbride Taskforce has worked to make sure the town continues to be an economic force for the area, and the creation of the EK Hub is a real, tangible sign of that intent."



**COMMON CAUSE:** Bill McBride, Chair of Routes to Work South and Councillor Graham Simpson (standing, second and third left) were joined at the opening of the Hub by young people who had found jobs through the initiative:(standing, left to right) Kevin Murray, Darren McShane and Callum Bell, and (seated, left to right) Michael Johnstone, Chloe McLean, Callum Logan and Emma Standish.

## JUST THE JOB

The council has negotiated an agreement with the town centre management that means all new businesses entering into a lease will be required to engage with the Hub. As well as looking to fill any vacancies, pre-employment training will be on offer, particularly in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. New tenants within the town centre will be required to ensure that new employees are recruited within South Lanarkshire where possible.

As well as town centre employers, businesses throughout South Lanarkshire will also be able to tap into the Hub's resources.

The intention is to help them at every stage, from sourcing suitable premises, recruitment, support for investment and advice on how to expand.

The Hub is also intended to be a Redundancy Response Centre, acting as a focal point for the current PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) partnership.

Advice will also be available via the Supplier Development Programme, which helps small to medium-sized businesses learn the best approach to secure contracts with public sector organisations.

Among those invited to the official opening of the Hub were young people who have benefited from the services of South Lanarkshire Works 4 U.

They included Michael Johnstone, from Blantyre, who works for Roswell IT services. Owner of Roswell IT, Jim Craig, said: "South Lanarkshire Works 4 U helped me secure a wage subsidy for Michael – it's important that prospective employers know the

support and help they can offer your business."

Emma Standish, from Hamilton, is a Reception Administrator with Asbestos Building Surveys Ltd, a UKAS-accredited asbestos surveying service.

She said: "I had been unemployed and looking for work for approximately two months when a friend told me about Routes to Work South.

"I decided to contact them to see if they could help and they found me employment within three weeks, which I thought was excellent.

"I have been working for ABS full-time for five weeks now and am really enjoying it.

"I have recommended Routes to Work South to several of my friends who are finding it difficult to find work, and will continue to do so as the staff are genuinely interested in you and very helpful."

Elaine Tindle, PA and Office Manager at ABS Ltd, said: "We have been delighted with Emma since she joined us. She is well-presented, polite, eager and willing to learn. She is a great worker who deals well with anything that we give her.

"Dealing with Routes to Work South was really easy from my point of view. My contact was Laura Stoddart who is lovely to deal with, and very helpful. The whole experience is made very simple as Routes to Work South sort out and send CVs to their clients, thus saving a great deal of time.

"To date we have employed four members of staff from Routes to Work, one of whom has gone on to become an Asbestos Operative and has been employed with our sister company Damada Asbestos

Removals Ltd for almost nine years, so hopefully Emma will continue to work with us for that length of time if not longer."

Callum Bell, from Rutherglen, was also helped by Routes to Work. Callum is a seamstress with Scotspeed, who provide vehicle accessories direct to the motor trade.

He said: "I had been unemployed for 10 months before I got in touch with Routes to Work South. They helped me find employment within one month through working with them.

"I have been working here for three months now and am really enjoying it so far. I would thoroughly recommend anyone who is finding it difficult to get a job to get in touch with Routes to Work South."

Chris Evans, manager at Scotspeed, said: "We have been delighted with Callum since he joined us.

"He is a quick learner and has a good work ethic and, for someone very little working experience, he settled in great to a working environment.

"Dealing with Routes to Work South was really easy from our point of view, and we would definitely use them again for hiring staff. It was a pleasure dealing with them and they made the experience of hiring new staff fast and efficient, especially Fiona, who was more than helpful and very good at picking the right candidates for our business."

Other young people invited along on the day were Darren McShane, from East Kilbride, and Kevin Murray, from Cambuslang, who both work for Enviro-clean, and Chloe McLean from Carluke and Callum Logan from Stonehouse, who are currently at Routes to Work South.



**Open for business:** The Hub has a prominent town centre location to make it easy to access its services.





#### ACADEMIC ACTIVITY:

Professor Madeleine Grealy, Dr Andy Kerr and Dr Joanne Cummings, from the University of Strathclyde, with Marie McKeown, Sports Development Officer, and Health & Fitness Co-ordinator Patrick Murphy from South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture worked as part of the team who developed the initiative.



By Mhairi Anderson

**S**TROKES are the leading cause of disability among adults in Britain but a major new initiative is encouraging the use of exercise to aid recovery.

The ACCESS pilot project enables stroke survivors to try regular exercise at a local leisure centre, where specialised equipment and qualified coaching staff can support them in their bid to lead a healthy, active lifestyle.

A group of researchers from the University of Strathclyde and the University of Edinburgh has teamed up with South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture, North Lanarkshire Leisure and NHS Lanarkshire to help people who have suffered a stroke to become more physically active.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Board of South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture, said: "We know that physical exercise can help improve both physical and psychological health and this can benefit stroke sufferers, helping them on their road to recovery.

"We are delighted to be taking part in this pilot project with the researchers from the universities and other partners who are promoting ACCESS Lanarkshire-wide, and to be able to contribute to its evaluation."

Getting back to a fit and healthy lifestyle can often be an uphill struggle for stroke survivors.

According to Councillor Stewart, SLIC is committed to ensuring that they, and those with other long-term health conditions, are able to take part in exercise suited to them in an environment that is welcoming and supportive.

The ACCESS project uses movement-assisted exercise bikes known as MOTomed, suitable for those with limited mobility or wheelchair users, and available in South Lanarkshire's sports centres at Fairhill Lifestyle Centre, Hamilton, Blantyre Leisure Centre and Carluke Leisure Centre.

Stroke survivors who volunteer to participate will be invited to take part in an eight-week exercise programme devised by qualified leisure coaches, which will be tailored to suit each individual's level of physical ability.

Members of the universities' research team will work closely with leisure centre staff before and after the exercise programme to evaluate its effectiveness.

"Research has shown that the majority of stroke survivors are not as fit as people of the same age who have not had a stroke,"

# Exercise therapy tailored for stroke survivors



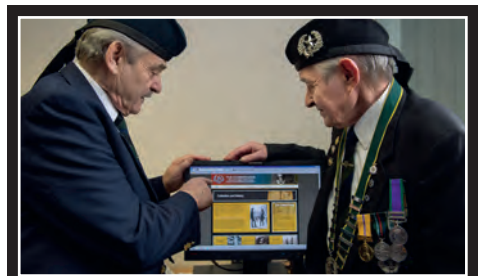
**WORTHWHILE EXERCISE:** Stroke survivor Liz Neilson exercises as health and fitness officer Mandy Cullie looks on.

explained Professor Madeleine Grealy, of the University of Strathclyde.

"Approximately 1000 stroke survivors are discharged from hospitals in Lanarkshire each year, so helping them to become more physically active will be of real benefit. The ACCESS project will allow us to measure the fitness levels of stroke survivors,

provide them with a training programme and evaluate how they can make the most of their local leisure facilities."

■ Anyone who would like more information on the project can contact Dr Joanne Cummings on 0141 548 4878 or [joanne.cummings@strath.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.cummings@strath.ac.uk).



**MODERN HISTORY:** Ex-Cameronians Alex Maxwell and Allan Halliday launch the Cameronians' new website.

## New website dedicated to old regiment

THE Cameronians were a unique part of Scottish history for more than three hundred years until they were finally disbanded in 1968 – and now modern technology is helping to preserve the memory of this important part of Lanarkshire's heritage.

Former soldiers of the local infantry regiment, Allan Halliday and Alex Maxwell, came along to Low Parks Museum in Hamilton this month to help launch a new website.

The website contains a wealth of material on the 300-year history of the regiment, including a variety of images of objects held in the museum's collection including medals, uniforms, wartime photos and artefacts collected during the lifetime of the regiment.

It also offers advice on how to research a soldier's history and how to make an enquiry.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, added: "This



**MEMORIES ONLINE:** Museum staff Terry MacKenzie, Lynsey Nicol, Rhona McKinnon and Angela Short with ex-Cameronians Alex Maxwell and Allan Halliday.

new website will be of great value to anyone interested in the history of this great regiment. It is appropriate that it is launched while the First World War commemorations are taking place so that current generations can use it to help understand the part played by local men in the conflict."

Former soldiers, Allan and Alex were delighted to be able to view a display covering the First World War including the Battle of Neuve Chapelle which took place 100 years ago this month and was one of the regiment's most significant actions of the War, leaving 450 Cameronians killed or wounded.

The launch of the new website coincided this month with the unveiling of a memorial to The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in the church at the French village.

Museum staff have worked in partnership with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's Business team and South Lanarkshire Council's ModGov team over the past year to develop the new website, which can be found at [www.sllccameronians.co.uk](http://www.sllccameronians.co.uk). The First World War display in Low Parks Museum's Cameronians Gallery is part of a continuing programme of commemorations of key dates from WWI.





**MINERS AND CRAFTERS:** Children's Assistant Ana Lopes with Lucy Winfield, Callum Clark, Finn Montgomery, Jamie Donaldson and Mitchell Maloney

# Mine-crafty kids build new worlds

By Sarah Burrows

**I**T'S the craze among young children that has swept across the country, and now Minecraft has invaded our libraries.

Many of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's libraries now hold Minecraft clubs after school, attracting around 100 young people each week.

From Lanark to Larkhall and Cathkin to Carluke, children aged seven and above can meet and chat about their virtual creations. Each week, the groups are tasked with creating a virtual structure, bringing it to life in a 3D online model. The hotly-contested 'Crafter of the Week' certificate is awarded to the person who has been the most creative or imaginative during the session.

Gerry Campbell, General Manager for South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, said: "Minecraft is a virtual game where players can dig [mine] and build [craft] different kinds of 3D blocks. It's a fun way to learn, encouraging problem-solving skills and creativity. Children also get to meet lots of new people and make new friends! We recognised the growing popularity of the game and introduced a Minecraft Club in Hamilton Town House Library, which has flourished."

Anna Lopes, Children's Assistant at the Townhouse Library, runs the Hamilton club. She said: "It's great to see the children interacting while playing Minecraft. These sessions are a great way of enhancing social skills in children and, of course, honing their building skills. I'm sure I've



**CONCENTRATED EFFORT:** Engrossed in the weekly Minecraft challenge.

seen a few future architects and engineers taking part in the sessions."

Stephanie Prouvost's seven-year-old son, Finn, attends the group. She said: "It's a great group to mix with and is good for them to play together as I think Minecraft could be a lonely game – this way is a great opportunity to make new friends."

Finn agreed: "I love playing Minecraft because you can use your imagination to the full and get to build anything you want to. I love the Minecraft club as we all try to be the best."

David Williamson, father of Minecraft player Dylan, said: "Minecraft is a game like no other – it looks like a game from the '80s but it's mind-boggling what the kids can do on it."

Dylan, who attends Netherton Primary School, said: "I love playing Minecraft because I love the freedom of being able to fly. The best thing about the Minecraft sessions is being able to play with other boys and girls and learning from what they build."

■ **If you want to find out where your nearest Minecraft Club takes place, check online at [www.slleisureandculture.co.uk](http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk) or contact your local library.**



## Magical night at Greenhills Library

WITCHES and wizards of East Kilbride gathered recently at a special event at Greenhills Library.

The library took part in the first ever Harry Potter Book Night by hosting an evening of wizarding frolics.

The book night – promoted nationally by Bloomsbury Children's Books – gave new and existing fans a chance to share the wonder of JK Rowling's unforgettable stories and, most excitingly, to introduce the next generation of readers to the unparalleled magic of Harry Potter.

The only Harry Potter event to be held in South Lanarkshire was attended by around 30 children who took part in the evening of wizarding fun.

The magic students were sorted into their Hogwarts Houses by the Sorting Hat as featured in the Harry Potter books and films, before taking part in a potions class where they mixed up a variety of magical concoctions and then looked to the future in a Divinations lesson.

Children also made mystical and magical crafts before competing against the other houses in a Quiddich match.

Library Team Leader Kirsty Jones said: "I'm not sure who had the most fun at the Harry Potter night – the adults or the children. We were delighted to be the only library in South Lanarkshire to take part in the first Harry Potter Book Night. The official book night will now take place on an annual basis, so we are looking at holding another one locally next year to accommodate some of the more grown-up Harry Potter fans in addition to the young ones."

"All of the staff who were working at this event really got into the spirit of things by dressing up and getting into character and I know they all had great fun. I'm sure they will be very keen to do it all again soon."



**YOUNG HARRY:** Seven-year-old Max Lavan picks a Hogwarts House during the Sorting Hat Ceremony at the event.



**MODEL PUPIL:** Douglas McLennan with Minecraft props made at one of the clubs.





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