



# The View

Winter 2015

**YOUR GUIDE  
TO KEEPING  
SAFE ON  
THE WINTER  
ROADS**  
PAGES 8-9

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council

**GIRL'S LOST  
PURSE MAKES  
A GREAT  
TALE**

PAGE 3



**ARTS CENTRE'S  
FIRST HOME  
PRODUCTION**

SEE PAGE 12

**DARCEY  
FIRST  
TO MEET  
SANTA**



Lucky 5 year old Darcey Carr was the first child of the year to meet Santa in his festive home in Hamilton's Low Parks Museum. He will be visiting the museum on the weekends of 12 /13 and 19 /20 December. A visit to the grotto costs £5 per child and there is no need to book in advance. On the 12th December you can even join Santa for a magical breakfast. Tickets for this cost £8.50 per child (includes breakfast, visit to Santa and craft activity) and £4 for adults (includes hot roll and tea or coffee). To book tickets log on to [www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk) or phone 01698 452299.

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON SAVINGS PROPOSALS

**S**OUTH Lanarkshire residents have been urged to have their say on savings proposals that may affect council services next year.

As tough economic conditions continue, the whole of the public sector is affected by budget restrictions. South Lanarkshire Council, which is responsible for the delivery of a vast range of local services, is no exception.

Paul Manning, the Executive Director for Finance and Corporate Resources, said: "The council has already saved more than £90 million in recent years and now needs to find further efficiencies estimated at £36.27 million for the next financial year, 2016/17.

"This is because the money the council gets in to deliver local services has gone

down in recent years, during which the grant from government has reduced in real terms and the Council Tax has been frozen. At the same time, demand for local services has increased.

"The Scottish Government hasn't told us what our grant will be for 2016/17 yet, but we are required by law to balance our  
► Turn to Page 2

**INSIDESTORY  
FRUITTRADITION**



PAGE 10

Making more of the local orchards

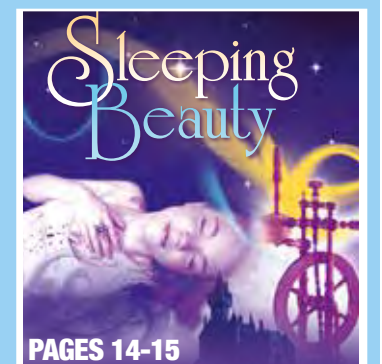
**SAFETY LESSONS**

PAGE 13



Pupils learn all about road rules in activity day

**WINTERFUN**



PAGES 14-15

Festival is back – bigger and better than before



## USEFUL CONTACTS

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### Housing enquiries (except repairs)

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### Social Work and Money Matters

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### Conference and banqueting

Phone 0303 123 1009

### Parking

0303 123 1006

### Bereavement services (cemeteries and crematorium)

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### Fraud helpline

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### For all other enquiries

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### Out-of-hours Social Work emergencies

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If you are hard of hearing  
you can use minicom on  
0303 123 1017

If you need this information  
in another language or  
format, please contact us  
to discuss how we can best  
meet your needs.

Phone 0303 123 1015

Email: equalities@

southlanarkshire.gov.uk



# Beat the Boxing Day bin blues

CHRISTMAS comes but once a year and along with it comes the familiar mountain of wrapping, packaging and boxes, and disposing of our household waste becomes more of a challenge.

So remember that, as usual, there are changes to the bin collection dates over the festive period:



### Week Commencing Monday 21 December

- 21 – 24 December collections as normal
- Friday 25 December 2015 no collections, bins will be uplifted Sunday 27 December

### Week commencing Monday 28 December

- 28 – 31 December collections as normal
- Friday 1 January 2016 no collections, bins will be uplifted Sunday 3 January
- Monday 4 January collections as normal

Along with changes to bin collections dates, it's also useful to remember that household waste can be reduced, re-used, recovered, and recycled. Spreading your waste between bins helps to manage the bulk and protects the environment. The council's web site – [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) – provides lots of useful information and advice on how best to dispose of your waste.

And if you feel your extra bundle of Christmas cheer is too much for your own bins, remember South Lanarkshire also has six main recycling centres in Carluke,



East Kilbride, Hamilton/Blantyre, Larkhall and Stathaven. You can find details of locations and opening times, along with a full list of recycling banks, on the website too.

## Residents asked for views

### ► From Page 1

budget so it is prudent to draw up plans based on the savings we may need to find.

"A set of proposals has been developed which is designed to protect key frontline services as far as possible. But, even so, this has involved looking at some difficult options."

The proposals were put to the council's Executive Committee on 4 November and can be found on the council's website: [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/savings](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/savings)

Copies of the full savings are available in the area's libraries and Q and A offices for those who cannot access them online.

Mr Manning added: "At the moment, these are just proposals. Final decisions will be taken by councillors after full consideration."

Members of the public are also invited to have their say, via email at [savings@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:savings@southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or by writing to Savings, 4th Floor, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA.

While all the savings options are just proposals at this time, the council must balance its budget by finding the total amount of efficiencies required.

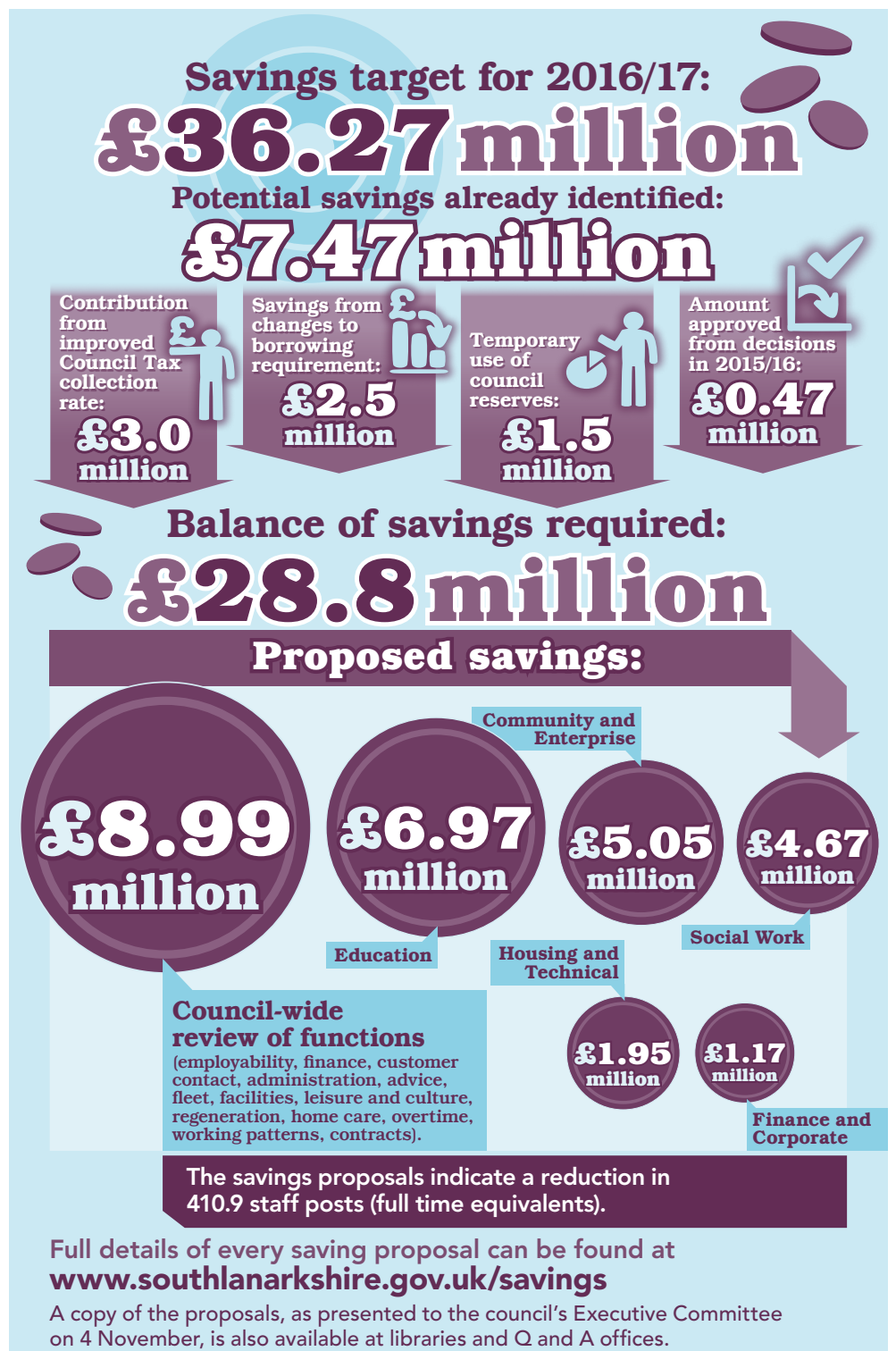
The proposals include £7.47 million in savings which have resulted from previous budget decisions, a plan to reduce borrowing costs, and a one-off use of the council's reserves. While Council Tax remains frozen, the council's collection rate has also improved and this could contribute to the amount needed.

But another £28.8m in savings is needed, so many difficult choices still have to be made.

The rest of the proposals put to councillors include £8.99m in savings which could be found from a number of reviews across a range of areas and services, as the council continues to find more efficiencies.

Other proposals have been developed by council officers working in each of the council departments, or 'Resources'.

These remain proposals at this time, and any changes which are approved by councillors will not come into effect until April 2016 at the earliest. The vast majority of council services will not be affected.





# Purse's journey makes for a heart-warming tale

BY ANDY LIVINGSTONE

**P**ICTURE the scene. It is 2013, early summer, and a group of S1 pupils from a Blantyre school are in Belgium on a Modern Languages trip. It is early, but they are excited as they board a bus, for they are heading to Paris, one of the great capital cities of the world.

In the midst of the enthusiasm, however, alarm is felt by one young girl as she reaches into her bag to realise her purse is missing. The departure is delayed as a frantic search is conducted, but to no avail. The purse is never found and the bus sets off, with one passenger despondent at losing a treasured item complete with UK money and Euros and various cards.

Fast forward almost two years. The trip, despite the loss, was a wonderful experience and is fondly remembered but the purse, with all that happens in a young girl's life, has been virtually forgotten. The girl, now in fourth year, receives a message to report to the school office and there, waiting for her, fresh from the morning post, is the very purse she had lost 18 months previously and 500 miles away. Not only returned, but in pristine condition and with all of its contents intact, right down to the last penny.

It had been found by a local man in Holland who had never given up on returning it to its owner and had, after all that time, found a way to do so.

It sounds far-fetched enough to be the basis of the plot of a heart-warming movie, but the story is a true one. The pupil was Lucy Caul, of Calderside Academy, Blantyre, and she explained:

**'As if the story wasn't amazing enough, what the purse actually did look like was about as appropriate as could be – it was in the design of an air mail envelope!'**

"When we travelled to Paris, before we passed through Belgium we sailed into Rotterdam, so I'm guessing I probably dropped it there because it was a Dutch man who found it.

"I was panicking and upset when I realised it was missing, but over the months I gradually forgot about it and when the school office called me over, I actually couldn't even remember what it looked like."

As if the story wasn't amazing enough,



**RETURNED:** Lucy with the purse she thought was gone for good

what the purse actually did look like was about as appropriate as could be – it was in the design of an air mail envelope!

It had been found by Reinout Teheij, who had kept it safe until he could find out how to trace the owner. Most people would have put the purse in a drawer or cupboard and forgotten about it over time but when, in September this year, Mr Teheij had been preparing for a visit to the UK, he had the presence of mind to remember the purse and bring it with him.

He was travelling to South Shields, in the north of England, and was staying at a Premier Inn there. He enlisted the

help of the hotel staff who used Lucy's Young Scot National Entitlement Card to track down her school, and the purse was posted north.

"It was in perfect condition and had everything inside just as I had left it, even down to the £10 note that I had in it," Lucy revealed. "I have written to Mr Teheij to thank him and say how amazed I am that someone would do this.

"I can't believe a complete stranger would be go to so much trouble to keep it safe and return it to me. There are not many people who would be so kind, and I am lucky that it was one of them who found my purse."

## Benefits help for carers

It is estimated that there are over 38,000 carers in South Lanarkshire providing care to elderly, disabled and frail family members and loved ones. Caring for a loved one can take a serious toll on the carer's own mental and physical health, personal relationships and family finances and many are facing financial hardship, as they struggle to make ends meet. And with the warning of further welfare cuts many are worried about the future.

Carers UK's State of Caring survey 2015 reported on the experiences of 4500 carers – over 76% of carers are concerned about the impact of caring on their own health over the next year, 48% of carers are struggling to make ends meet and 52% are worried about cuts to social security.

Robert Anderson MBE from South Lanarkshire Carers Network said: "Over 76% of carers have said that they are



concerned about the impact of caring on their health over the next year. We know how true this is, all too often the carers we speak to are themselves in need of assistance to claim disability benefits".

Maximising benefits income for carers is vital. That's why South Lanarkshire Carers Network in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council has recruited Welfare Rights Officers to provide carers with advice and information on how to access the welfare benefits that they are entitled to. Since the service began in 2012, carers and the people they care for have been assisted to claim over £12.7 million.

**■ If you are a carer living in South Lanarkshire and worried about what benefit changes may mean for you and the person you care for, if benefit has been refused or withdrawn, or if you would like us to check that you are getting all the money you are entitled to, telephone 0303 123 1008.**

## NEW £6.7m SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED

COALBURN Primary School and Nursery Class is the latest primary in South Lanarkshire to have its official opening.

The new £6.7m school has six classrooms, a gym/dining room with stage, a nursery with separate entrance and playground, a MUGA pitch, 25-space car park with turning area and drop-off point and a school garden.

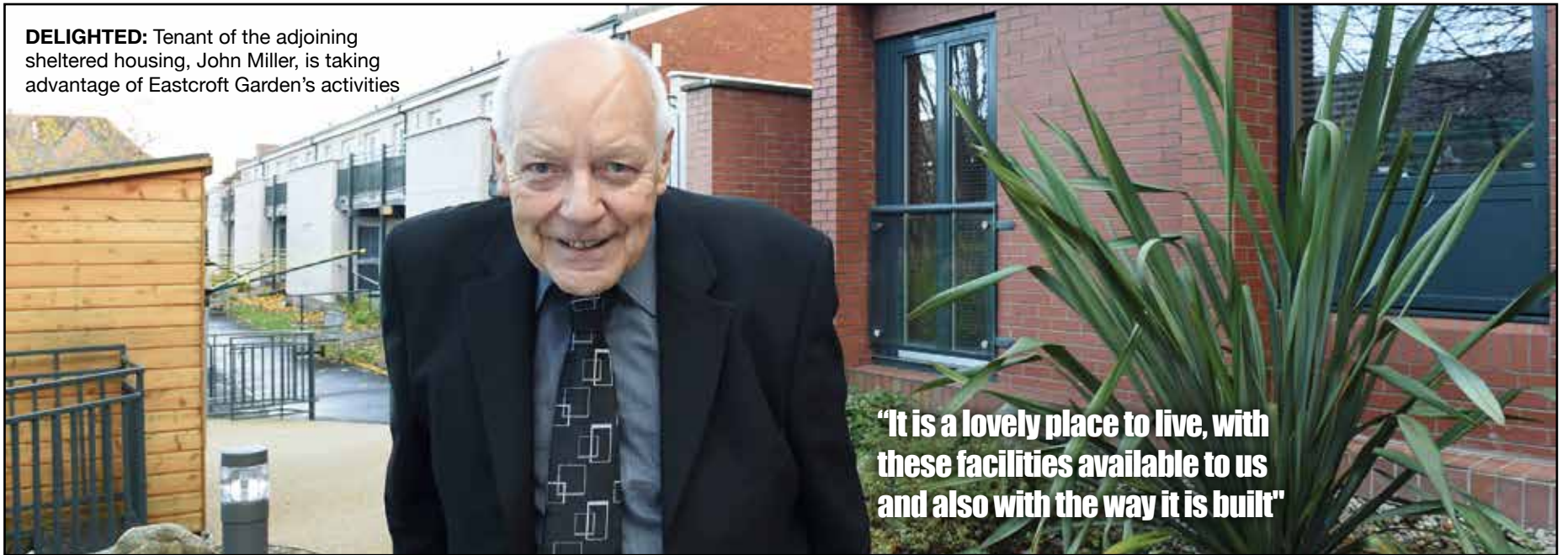
Head Teacher William Scott said: "It was great to see the children resplendent in their school uniform and being excited to take part in a special day for the school.

"A lot of work by staff and children went into organising the programme for the day and my thanks go to everyone involved.

"The children were of course the stars of the day and they are a credit to themselves, their parents and the school."



**DELIGHTED:** Tenant of the adjoining sheltered housing, John Miller, is taking advantage of Eastcroft Garden's activities



**"It is a lovely place to live, with these facilities available to us and also with the way it is built"**

# Residents reap benefit of changes to layout

BY ANDY LIVINGSTONE

**W**hen one of South Lanarkshire's newest sheltered housing complexes opened, one of its aims was to build contact between residents and the surrounding community.

Now Eastcroft Gardens, in Rutherglen, is taking that a stage further by physically integrating with the adjoining sheltered housing facility.

Eastcroft Gardens was created by completely rebuilding the interior of the former David Walker care home and opened in December 2013.

In the two years since, the tenants have

used their modern facilities to become involved in a variety of groups and activities, from tai chi to knitting. Such has been their enthusiasm that it has attracted the attention of residents in the long-standing sheltered housing that sits immediately adjacent to the new complex, who now drop in to Eastcroft Gardens to take advantage of what is on offer there.

One of those tenants, John Miller, is a regular visitor to the complex.

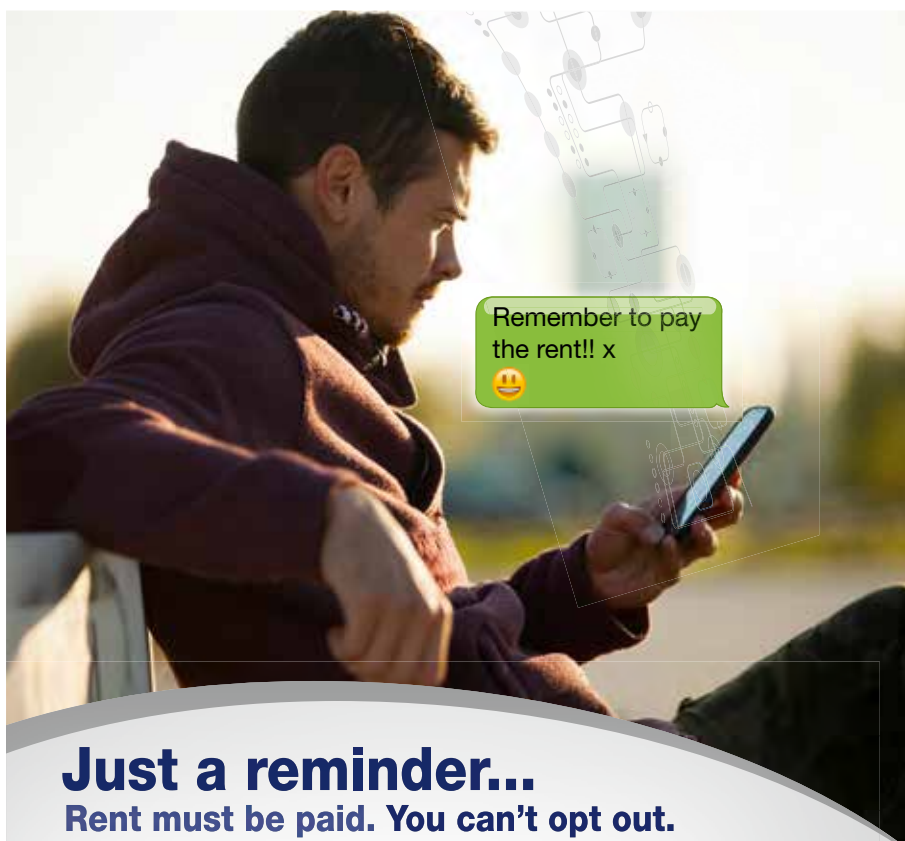
John (67) said: "I moved here around four months ago, and am loving it. I come into Eastcroft Gardens several times a week for activities and it is great to be able to mix with people like this, and right on my doorstep.

"It is a lovely place to live, with these facilities available to us and also with the way it is built – when the sun is out, it is a sun trap and it is great just to be able to sit outside my house and enjoy it."

John will be able to enjoy the surroundings to his house even more in the not too distant future. Work is currently well underway to bring the two complexes together more physically, with not only new roughcasting being carried out and garden areas made more individual, but landscaping and a shared drying area being created to bring the two facilities together as one.

South Lanarkshire Council Sheltered Housing Officer Peter Henry explained: "We already have such a vibrant atmosphere here between the residents of both facilities, but this will enhance it even further and bring everyone together as one.

"It makes perfect sense and is wonderful for the people living here."



## Just a reminder...

**Rent must be paid. You can't opt out.**

If you're behind in your rent payments, please contact us – we can make arrangements for affordable payments to help you clear your arrears.

**If you don't pay – we will take action**

Contact your local housing office on **0303 123 1012**

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



## Helping tenants to pay on time

THE money the council receives in rent payments helps to deliver vital local services – that's why it's important that council tenants pay their rent on time. And there's plenty of help and advice available to make it easier for them to do just that.

Anyone who's unsure about how or when to pay can visit the council's website at [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) where they'll find a list of fortnightly payment dates and information on

the various ways to pay, including -

- online
- by direct debit
- by phone
- In person at a local office
- by post
- by standing order.

Any tenant who's unsure how much rent they need to pay should contact their local area housing office where council staff will be happy to help. There are housing offices in Hamilton, East Kilbride, Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Lanark, Blantyre, Carluke

and Larkhall.

And, while paying rent is not a matter of choice, there may be times when people will have difficulty paying on time. Again local housing office staff are there to help if someone is behind with their rent or worried about their payments. Housing staff can provide advice, help with repayment plans and access debt counseling and money advice services. They can also help claim housing benefit if a tenant is entitled to it.





# Schools can take the lead on air quality improvement

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**A** LONG term plan to create a generation of eco-aware Scots who will drive long term air quality improvements is underway with the launch of a teaching pack for schools developed in Lanarkshire and piloted at a Hamilton primary.

Produced by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), local authorities and in consultation with Education Scotland, [www.learnaboutair.com](http://www.learnaboutair.com) contains a series of geography and science activities and practical experiments for primary and secondary schools, designed to encourage pupils to think about air quality and how it affects them and their families.

St Ninian's Primary School in Hamilton was chosen to pilot test the primary section of the online teaching pack.

The online resource is now freely available for all schools in Scotland to use and South Lanarkshire's Environmental Health Officers are calling on teachers to explore all it has to offer. Head of Fleet and Environmental Services Shirley Clelland said: "We have been really impressed with what this pack has to offer in terms of teaching young people the science behind air quality and also the practical impact that changing our daily habits can have.

"There is a lot of information, practical activities and helpful links and the resources have been cleverly designed to grow with the children so as they move into secondary school the exploration of the chemicals involved becomes more complex and the investigation of environmental impacts goes deeper."

Colin Gillespie, Principal Air Quality Scientist at SEPA, said; "We believe working with children now, educating them on the environmental problems we are currently facing and providing detail on the cause and solution to the problems is the best way to change the behaviours that contribute to



air quality problems, this teaching package aims to do that."

Designed with teachers and students in mind, the package provides: a section for primary schools that includes both classroom based and outdoor practical activities for collecting data, which can then be used to discuss local environmental issues; a geography section for secondary schools; a science area for secondary schools that provides lessons on the scientific understanding of air pollutants that are

## WARNING:

Taylor Kennedy highlights some of the pollutants emitted by an idling car engine that can be particularly damaging to young lungs



**INSPIRED:** A pupil from St Ninian's wrote this letter after working through the teaching pack

## Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing this letter to persuade you to try not to park in the school car park as it is raising air pollution levels. During our study we have become concerned about the three major pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

In our school car park we placed a pollution monitor which has given us spike graphs of the levels of the pollution so we can analyse our information. We have found out that between 8.30am - 9am and 2.45pm - 3.15pm are the worst times for pollution. We have come up with a solution to help prevent pollution but it will only work if we all try hard enough. To prevent this you could cycle, walk or drop off a little way away from the school and walk the rest of the way.

If we can make our solution work, it will also help prevent health problems like asthma. If you want to look further into it go to: [www.learnaboutair.com](http://www.learnaboutair.com)

To conclude please, please, please take on board what I have said and help save our environment and health and of course reduce the levels of pollution around our playground.

Thank you.

reinforced with in-class experiments.

The option for inter-disciplinary activities for secondary school pupils using both geography and science skills is also offered.

Head Teacher at St Ninian's Primary, Margaret Anne Ferguson said; "Our staff and pupils really enjoyed the opportunity to use the teaching pack and a lot of thought has clearly gone into ensuring it has a really good fit with the goals of Curriculum For Excellence.

"There are serious messages about air quality and practical examples of how we can all work to make improvements but it is also really well packed in engaging learning activities."

"After working through the teaching pack one of our pupils wrote a letter to parents urging them not to park in the school car park, detailing the impact vehicle emissions have on air quality and offering alternative transport options; it really demonstrated the impact of this resource being used in class."

## Support the winter air quality campaign

AS the outside temperature drops there is a temptation to keep the engine idling and the car heater running even when your car is stationary, but there's a call on drivers to stay cool and turn off.

South Lanarkshire's Environmental Health Officers have launched a winter campaign aimed at cutting the pollutants that impact on the quality of the air that we breathe.

If you leave your engine running it can be producing twice as much polluting emissions as when you are driving, it wastes fuel and it increases the wear on your engine.

The winter campaign is particularly highlighting the impact on health that idling engines could have outside schools, leisure centres and cultural venues, where young people might be gathered and drivers wait to pick someone up.

South Lanarkshire's Head of Fleet and Environmental Services, Shirley Clelland said: "We are launching a winter campaign on engine idling to remind drivers that leaving your car running when you stop is a real issue with negative impacts on the environment, people's health and your pocket.

"I would also take this opportunity to remind people that our officers will be out and about in the winter months to highlight this issue to drivers and they do have the power to issue on the spot fines of £20 to those who refuse to switch off.

"Exhaust emissions from vehicles contain a range of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, hydrocarbons and particulate matter.

"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% of people with asthma report that traffic fumes make their condition worse."



**NO IDLING:** Eva McGovern from St Ninian's Primary School

**As part of their winter campaign Environmental Services Officers are highlighting the facts and myths about letting your engine idle:**

■ **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 like the battery and starter motor.**

■ **Excessive idling is hard on engines** Excessive idling can damage cylinders, spark plugs and exhaust systems.

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



# HOME CARERS ARE “EYES AND EARS” OF NURSES

BY EUAN DUGUID

**F**rontline health and social care staff have come together to participate in a ‘walk in my shoes’ skill sharing summit in South Lanarkshire.

Among the aims of the Core Skills Training course was to ensure newly-recruited home care workers are equipped with a range of practical skills to support them in their roles as they meet the challenges of an ageing population.

Crucially, the innovative programme, where experienced district nurses from NHS Lanarkshire worked with 90 South Lanarkshire Council home care workers, has also strengthened a spirit of partnership between professions as health and social care integrate.

Natalie McCormick, of NHS Lanarkshire, one of the district nurses who led the course, explained: “This programme was practical in focus but it wasn’t about home care workers adopting the responsibilities of community-based nurses, or vice versa.

“It was about sharing knowledge and expertise, increasing empathy and understanding of each other’s jobs – virtually walking in each others’ shoes – with the overarching aim of improving the outcomes of those in our care.”

Home care workers’ tasks can involve helping a person to wash, dress, get ready for bed to helping with medication.

They frequently work in partnership with health colleagues, including district nurses, to deliver care packages to people in their own homes.

Natalie added: “The recent course focused on wider practical training like drug and alcohol awareness, nutrition, palliative care and infection prevention and control.”

One example provided was the difference it could make to a service user if a home carer was to contact a district nurse at the early signs of pressure sores.

The aim of the new training placed emphasis on preventing sores. However, home care workers now also have an

increased awareness of what early stages look like and to contact nurses as soon as they are aware.

Ann Richford, a South Lanarkshire Council home care worker, said: “This course has given me that extra level of confidence that I’m part of a wider team with a greater appreciation of different expertise always at hand.”

And that sentiment is two way. Natalie continued: “We really wanted to reinforce the message home carers have a range of expertise to tap into – in many cases it’s about picking up the phone to nurses and face-to-face contact. That’s reciprocal. As nurses, home carers are very much our eyes and ears in the person’s house.

“Nurses may only see a person for a limited time of day but home carers can be in four or five times a day, gaining a much more comprehensive sense of that person’s needs.

“So listening to the experience of home carers is really valuable to our work as nurses. That feed in – and keeping up those lines of two-way communication constantly open – is vital.”

The course, which focused on how to support service users in accordance to their values, with dignity and supporting them to be as independent as possible, comes at a vital time.

A new Act requires health boards and local authorities to integrate their adult health and social care services.

A key aim of integration is to provide person-centred planning and delivery, so that people get the right advice, support and care in the right place and at the right time.

The third sector, independent sector and unpaid carers are key partners too.

Harry Stevenson, Chief Officer of South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) said: “Within South Lanarkshire’s H&SCP, each partner has their own specialism and we can learn from each other to find the best way to support people in our communities.

“Shared respect and understanding for each other’s roles is the linchpin of our partnership. This innovative course has embodied that spirit.”

**“The recent course focused on wider practical training like drug and alcohol awareness”**

**Continued commitment to making a difference to lives – in partnership**

THE course was developed in partnership between NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council Social Work Employee Development and facilitated by SL H&SCP Learning and Development adviser Debbie Crawford.

Debbie explained: “There is already a robust,

well-established tradition of joined-up working in South Lanarkshire.

“What was clear during the training, however, was the ongoing commitment and passion shown by everyone involved to work together toward making a real difference to the lives of people in the area.”



**SHARING:** Natalie and Ann are swapping information and ideas to help deal with a wide variety of people

**‘Nurses may only see a person for a limited time of day but home carers can be in four or five times a day, gaining a much more comprehensive sense of that person’s needs’**



**POIGNANT:**  
Personal letters and diaries from the First World War were brought to life in a memorable performance by local school pupils

# Heroes of First World War remembered by project

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**A**S the final curtain came down at the end of the all new musical play 'The Rifles' at The Town House, Hamilton it marked not just the end of the show but the end of an ambitious project marking the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 and keeping alive the memory of the soldiers of Lanarkshire's Cameronians Regiment.

With a large ensemble cast of 27 made up of pupils drawn from the six Hamilton area secondary schools 'The Rifles' was developed with the support of a professional creative team and based on private diaries, letters and archive documents held in the Cameronians Collection at Low Parks Museum in Hamilton.

The musical production was the final act of the project "Local Heroes – the untold stories of The Cameronians in their own words" which, backed by a £68,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant, worked with schools, volunteers and the wider community to use traditional crafts, dance, music and drama to bring to life personal and poignant memories.

Coming from Hamilton Grammar,

Uddingston Grammar, Holy Cross High, St John Ogilvie High, Larkhall Academy and Calderside Academy, the young stars of 'The Rifles' were no less professional than their mentors and directors and even gave up their entire October break for a week of intensive rehearsals.

A 45 strong choir from New College Lanarkshire joined them for the five performances they delivered over the three days.

The results of that hard work were clear to see in the stunning performances that gave new life and perspective to the war time memoirs of The Cameronians.

General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Gerry Campbell said: "The 'Local Heroes' project was about bringing to life real memories and presenting them in a new way, in addition to the six high schools, 40 primaries were involved in drama workshops based on 'The Rifles'.

"Earlier in the year the 'Keep The Home Fires Burning' concert at Rutherglen Town Hall saw school and community choirs and local singers and performers from across South Lanarkshire deliver a programme of music, song and poetry also inspired by the historic records in The Cameronians Collection."

Assistant Museum Officer Barrie Duncan said: "Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund award and working with our colleagues in South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture's (SLLC) Arts Development service we have been able to take a very exciting and different approach to bringing this fascinating and very personal archive of untold stories from letters and private diaries of the men who served in the Cameronian regiment during WW1 to a wider audience.

"It is a great honour for us to be entrusted with The Cameronians Collection at Low Parks museum and 'Untold Stories' will

help a new generation ensure the men who went to war and the families they left behind continue to be remembered"

Lucy Casot, head of HLF Scotland, said: "The impact of the First World War was far reaching, touching every corner of the UK. Since April 2010, HLF has awarded more than £70million to around 1100 projects – large and small – that are marking this global centenary. With our small grants programme, we are enabling more communities to explore the continuing legacy of this conflict."

"The untold stories of 'The Cameronians in their own words' explores the continuing legacy of this conflict and helps local young people in particular to broaden their understanding of how it has shaped our modern world."

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's Cultural Services Manager, Benny Martin said: "It has been our great pleasure and honour to commemorate those who took part in the conflict of World War 1."

Convener, Joint Ex-Services Committee and WW2 veteran Ian Forsyth gave his time to support the project. He said: "100 years on from the start of WW1 this project has played an important role in keeping alive the memories of people and personalities so the horrific toll on life of that war will not just become facts and figures of an event in history and it will help the people of Lanarkshire keep the pledge that we will remember them."

■ The Cameronians Collection is on permanent exhibition at Low Parks Museum in Hamilton and in addition to a fascinating range of artefacts, trophies, documents and curios it also includes interactive displays and dressing up.





# PUBLIC URGED TO BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**If there is one thing for certain about Scotland's roads in winter it is that at times conditions will get bad, so it pays to be prepared.**

Stuck in a snow drift, waiting in freezing rain for a recovery truck, fog bound and far from home – just a few of the worst case scenarios that can befall travellers during the winter months whether their journey is a short commute or a longer trip.

As is often the case prevention is better than cure and with modern technology giving easy access to the latest information, checking localised weather forecasts before setting out on a journey can help you decide if travel plans need to be delayed, changed or cancelled all together.

South Lanarkshire's Council's Roads and Transportation Service publish three updates a day detailing conditions on the roads and these can be accessed via the home page of the council's website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or the @SLCRoads Twitter feed. You can also register on the Met Office website for weather alerts and numerous media outlets offer localised forecasts on their websites.

Remember to also check the weather along your route, especially for longer trips, and for the return journey.

Always pay attention to official travel advice but use common sense as localised conditions will vary and severe weather may strike much harder in some areas.

Keeping a winter survival kit in your car can help stack the odds in your favour when the weather takes a turn for the worse, and making sure your car is up to task ahead of time is a good plan. So a winter service, good tread on your tyres, regularly topping up with low temperature screenwash and having an ice scraper are all advisable.

South Lanarkshire Council puts a lot of planning and preparation into getting ready for winter but when snow is heavy

a freshly ploughed road can quickly be covered again. When temperatures hit extreme lows grit can become ineffective, rain can wash grit away then freeze on the road. Fog, mist and rain not only reduce visibility but can hide other dangers such as ice, surface water and obstacles.

If you are a driver the biggest contribution you can make to winter road safety is to make sure you adopt the correct driving style for the conditions – slow down, leave more space, use the correct lights and when it gets really bad do not take to the road in the first place or, if you are already out, find a safe place to pull over and wait until the weather improves.

South Lanarkshire Council's Head of Roads and Transportation Gordon Mackay said: "We have the grit stocks, the specialist vehicles and equipment and most important the trained staff to deal with winter weather. But no matter how prepared we are for snow, high winds or heavy rain we cannot deal with a severe weather event until it happens.

"We have over 2,200km of roads in South Lanarkshire and we grit 52% of the network when ice or snow is forecast. It takes about 3.5 hours to cover our gritting routes so I would always advise people to drive as if a road has not been gritted even if you have seen the trucks out and about.

"Our priorities are A and B class roads, access roads to rural communities, access to hospitals, ambulance, fire and police stations schools and Urban District and Local Distributor Roads.

"Away from our priority routes we would look to the community to do what they can to support the winter effort. We have nearly 2000 grit bins which can be used to treat public roads and footways but I would encourage people to keep a stock of salt for clearing their own driveways and paths."

"If you are clearing snow and ice from outside your own home please consider doing the same for neighbours who may not be able carry out such physical work themselves."



**Always pay attention to official travel advice but use common sense as localised conditions will vary and severe weather may strike much harder in some areas**

**A good emergency kit to take in your car should include:**

- torch
- battery/wind up radio
- mobile phone
- mobile phone back-up battery pack
- cash and credit cards
- emergency contact numbers
- winter boots, clothing and waterproofs
- snacks, bottled water and a hot flask
- shovel







# WE'RE PREPARED FOR WINTER



For full information on South Lanarkshire's gritting routes and further information on getting through the winter on the roads and at home see the winter information pages on [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Our service to you

### Salt usage and spend



Due to harsh weather conditions we have increased our salt stock to allow us to keep roads open during severe weather.

### Time taken to cover route



It took us less than **3.5 hours** to cover each gritting route.

### Length of road network



### Vehicles and equipment

We can call on our fleet of **48 gritters**, **43 snowploughs**, **one snowblower**, **24 tractors**, **six loaders** and **200 workers** to salt the roads, clear snow and keep road and footpaths maintained by us in a safe condition as far as possible.



### Number of grit bins



### Top tips when snow arrives

- Shovel snow using as large a blade as possible.** Making a line down the middle of your path and shovelling the snow to either side can also make things easier.
- Use ordinary table salt on your path to stop ice forming.** Locations of grit bins are available by visiting [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk).
- Let the sun melt the ice after you've shovelled off the snow.** This will only work if daytime temperatures are well above freezing.

See the winter information on our website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) and updates on Twitter **@SouthLanCouncil** **@SLCRoads** for 24 hour weather forecasts and when the gritters will be out.





**NATURAL:** Crowds flocked to the sixth annual fruit day and, below, one youngster helps out with the juice-making process

# FRUIT GROWING TRADITION HITS THE JUICE-POT

**A**PPLE juice is now being grown, bottled and processed in the Clyde Valley.

Drawing on a long tradition of fruit growing and market gardening in the area, the juice was launched at the sixth annual Clyde Valley Fruit Day at Overton Farm, Carluke.

The newly formed Clyde Valley Co-operative Ltd (CVOC) has been established from the Clyde Valley Orchard Group, who are supported by the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership.

The group is a network of local people who are interested in finding ways to make more of the local orchards. They run a range of events and have great local knowledge on orchard matters such as pruning, grafting, and harvesting techniques.

Duncan Arthur of CVOC said: "A number of different apple varieties have been used to produce the harvest this year, the three most common being Bramley, Monarch and Granadier.

"The juice is golden in colour, naturally

sweetened and freshly pressed. It's a pleasure to launch the juice during Scotland's Year of Food and Drink when eyes from around the world are on what amazing produce is available on our doorsteps."

CVOC are aiming to harvest three tonnes of apples to produce 1500 litres of juice which will have come from 12 different local orchards including one recently replanted community orchard at nearby Kirkfieldbank. Local orchard owners are also encouraged to make any excess apple crops available for pressing. All money raised through sales will be put back in to Clyde Valley community initiatives.

The juice will be available to buy initially from five local outlets; Carraghers Deli (Lanark), Raes Stores (Lanark), Overton Farm Shop (near Carluke), The Orchard in Biggar, and Silverbirch Garden Centre (Crossford), but it's hoped that it will be made more widely available as CVOC's capacity continues to grow.



**THE Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership is a Heritage Lottery Fund supported project.**

**The aims of the organisation are to conserve, enhance and celebrate the unique landscape and cultural heritage of the Clyde and Avon valleys.**

**The Partnership consists of ten key partners: South Lanarkshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Clydesdale Community Initiatives, New Lanark Trust, Northlight Heritage, RSPB Scotland Baron's Haugh, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, and The Rural Development Trust**

**■ For further information about the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership, please visit [www.clydeandavonvalley.org](http://www.clydeandavonvalley.org)**

## WANTED-THE NEXT INDIANA JONES

**BUDDING** archaeologists can now discover their inner Indiana Jones thanks to a new project in the Clyde and Avon valleys.

The Capturing the Past project, led by CAVLP Heritage, will help people discover and record the industrial, agricultural and horticultural archaeology and heritage of the Clyde and Avon valleys.

Beginning last month and lasting until summer 2016, free archaeological training will be available through the project including undertaking research, discovering and recording sites, learning how to make discoveries public and sharing finds with the wider communities. Supported by Heritage Lottery Fund,

Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) and Historic Scotland, Capturing the Past is part of a programme of archaeological projects that will be run by CAVLP Heritage over the next two and a half years that will encourage people to engage with the local archaeology and heritage, to learn new skills and to help create a legacy of trained heritage champions in the Clyde and Avon valleys.

CAVLP Heritage officer Dr Paul Murtagh said: "Through the Capturing the Past project, we're asking people to be not just passive consumers of the heritage of the Clyde and Avon Valleys, but to actively take a part in helping to discover and record the important archaeology of

the area.

"We want as many people as possible, from all over the area, to learn how to conduct archaeological work and help us build a picture of how people worked and lived in the valleys over the past few thousand years.

"By taking part in our training workshops members of the public will be able to learn first-hand, how archaeologists understand the landscape and how to conduct archaeological work themselves".

**■ Further events and training weekends will take place throughout January, February and March.**





## Football commentator Archie talks a good game to support new venture

BY SARAH BURROWS

**STAFF** at Fairhill Lifestyles Centre in Hamilton are geared up to make sure older people don't suffer falls this winter.

They have recently launched an innovative piece of technology, designed to identify people at risk of falls and to enable partnership working to try to combat future incidents.

The Balance Platform is designed to identifying users with a 'high risk' of falling and allows for initial baseline testing, continued monitoring, evaluation and training. The system allows gym staff and customers to see how proper balance training can drastically reduce the chance of having reoccurring falls.

Well known sports TV presenter Archie MacPhearsan attended the event to lend his support. He said: "Unfortunately I have had to spend time in hospital and I can see that it is not the best place to be if you can help it, so let's try to promote self responsibility for people's health.

"This piece of kit can very quickly identify if someone has a weakness that they can work on as a preventative measure. It's painless, quick and easy to use, so I would encourage all people of a certain age to get themselves a wee check and work on making sure they don't end up falling and ending up in hospital."

The Balance Platform is a sophisticated piece of technology designed to implement measurable falls management as well as identifying user with a 'high risk' of falling.

The platform allows for initial baseline testing, continued monitoring, evaluation and training. The system clearly allows gym staff and customers to see how proper balance training protocols can drastically reduce the chance of having reoccurring falls.

Chair of Lanarkshire NHS Board, Neena Mahal said: "I am delighted to see the launch of this exciting equipment. This is the culmination of true partnership working between NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, University of the West of Scotland and HUR who manufacture the equipment. I am delighted that we are leading the



**INNOVATIVE:** Left to right – Chair of NHS Lanarkshire Board Neena Mahal with gym instructor Mandy Cullie, gym member Anne Reilly, Archie MacPhearsan and Gerry Campbell, General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture at the launch of the balance board

# STAFF TAKE BALANCED APPROACH TO ASSIST OLDER CUSTOMERS

way in Lanarkshire and I have no doubt that we will also be leading the way throughout the West of Scotland.

"In South Lanarkshire falls cause the most frequent and serious type of accidents for people over 65. Falls can cause serious injury and loss of mobility and independence. However, falls can be reduced by 50% when action is taken to reduce the risks. This equipment will go some way to ensure that action is taken to prevent falls."

Gerry Campbell, General Manager

of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, said: "We really are excited to be launching this technology in Fairhill Lifestyles. It will give us a clearer picture of the mobility issues our older members face and will allow us to work with them to combat some of the early signs that they may be at risk of a fall. We will be able to fully tailor a fitness programme to help build muscles where they are weakest and will allow us to ensure that our older members stay as active as possible for as long as possible."



**TECHNOLOGY:** Mandy and Archie try out the board

## OLDER PEOPLE IN CARLUKE URGED TO GET MORE ACTIVE

**AN innovative partnership project has been launched in Carlisle to benefit locals who are aged over 60 and want to become more active and more social.**

**Active Fridays is a partnership with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, Seniors Together and Forward @50 and is a Friday activity club for people over 60 years old.**

**The club is free for Activage membership holders or £2.80 for anyone else and participants will get the opportunity to try out a wide range of activities, which will include New Age Kurling, Pickleball, Bowling, Table Tennis, Badminton.**

**Tea and coffee will also be available throughout as the new club will also offer the chance for socialising and meeting new people.**

**The Carlisle project has been made possible through funding from International Sport and Council Association.**

**Gerry Campbell, General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture said: "We are pleased to launch this Active Friday Club in Carlisle Leisure Centre. I'm sure it will be an invaluable tool in getting some of our older people more active which will in turn benefit their overall health and fitness.**

**"We've run a similar club in Blantyre and it has turned people's lives around. I have no doubt that this one will be the same."**

**There is no need to book in advance for the Active Friday Club. For further details please call 01555 751384.**





**MONOLOGUES:**  
Michelle, May  
and Cat are all  
set for the show



# CURTAIN SET TO RISE ON ARTS CENTRE'S FIRST HOME PRODUCTION

BY ANGELA MCMANUS

**E**AST Kilbride Arts Centre will host its very first home-produced show next February when they present the 'Vagina Monologues'.

Performed by three well known west-of-Scotland performers - May Miller, Cat

Harvey and Michelle McManus – the play is made up of a number of funny and thought-provoking monologues which deal with the female experience. Not for the faint-hearted, the monologues have been performed across the globe following its premiere in Broadway in 1996.

Every year a new monologue is added to highlight a current issue affecting women around the world. The show is running in East Kilbride during LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual) history month to support and promote the initiative.

Raymond Anderson, Arts Venues Officer at East Kilbride Arts Centre, says this is a new experience for the centre and a great opportunity to choose material that they know will appeal to their audience. He said: "Usually we

**The benefits of producing the show ourselves mean that we can pick material and actors that will particularly appeal to our local audience**

buy-in a complete show and simply provide the venue. But for small theatres across Scotland it's becoming increasingly difficult to get available and affordable productions. The benefits of producing the show ourselves mean that we can pick material and actors that will particularly appeal to our local audience.

"The intimate nature of our theatre here in East Kilbride makes it an ideal venue for this type of production."

■ **The show runs at East Kilbride Arts Centre on 9 and 10 February, with performances starting at 8.00pm before moving on to Rutherglen and Hamilton Town Halls. Tickets priced £15.00 are available at the box offices or online at [www.slleisureandculture.co.uk](http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk)**

## School to host Memorial Event

HOLOCAUST Memorial Day takes place on 27 January each year and marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in 1945.

It is a day of commemoration for the millions murdered by the Nazis and the millions more who have died in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

Each year South Lanarkshire hosts a Holocaust Memorial Event featuring performances of music, drama, poetry and dance by school pupils, with this year's being hosted by Hamilton Grammar School on 26 January 2016.

This year's theme, chosen by the Holocaust Memorial Trust, is 'Don't Stand By' and in the run up to Holocaust Memorial Day pupils across primary and secondary schools are involved in a wide range of activities on this theme or exploring aspects of The Holocaust and other genocides.

Executive Director of Education Resources Jim Gilhooly said: "Holocaust Memorial Day and the work that goes on around the event are not just important in remembering the victims but also provide a platform for important lessons about understanding, tolerance and respect for others."

## COUNCIL BACKS LIVING WAGE

IN recognition of growing levels of in-work poverty, South Lanarkshire Council and Community Planning partners are working together to promote the Living Wage to local businesses.

The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and annually, calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK.

South Lanarkshire Council was one of the first councils to introduce the Living Wage in 2011 and as the largest employer in the area this has made a significant contribution to reducing the numbers of local workers earning less than the Living Wage.

Since then many public and private sector organisations have followed.

The council's Head of Regeneration Services, Jim McCaffer, said: "As a council we are committed to, and proud to be paying, the Living Wage. There are several advantages to doing so.

"For example, independent studies have found that the majority of employers believe that paying the Living Wage enhances the quality of the work of their staff, while also reducing absenteeism.

"Employees also reported increases in work quality as a result of receiving the Living Wage, while half of them were more willing to implement changes in their working practices."

Outside of Glasgow and Edinburgh, South Lanarkshire has the highest number of employers signed up to the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation scheme and the plan in South Lanarkshire is to encourage others to do the same and help to reduce in work poverty in the area.



## Waste Collections over the festive period

Over the festive period there will be some changes to waste collections as follows:

### Week Commencing Monday 21 December

21 – 24 December collections as normal  
Friday 25 December 2015 no collections,  
bins will be uplifted Sunday 27 December

### Week commencing Monday 28 December

28 – 31 December collections as normal  
Friday 1 January 2016 no collections,  
bins will be uplifted Sunday 3 January  
Monday 4 January collections as normal



**SAFETY FIRST:**  
Auchinraith Primary School's Heather Smillie and Kyle Waddle, front, and David Livingston Primary's Ailis McKendrick and Scott McLachlan at the JRSO day



**FUN:** One pupil tries out the road safety game

# PRIMARY PUPILS ON RIGHT ROAD FOR SAFETY LESSONS

BY SARAH BURROWS

**P**UPILS from primary schools throughout Lanarkshire attended an activity day in Chatelherault, Hamilton, recently to learn all about road safety.

The 238 primary six and seven pupils recently attended their first formal engagement in their new roles as Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs).

The pupils, from 110 schools throughout South Lanarkshire, learned what it meant to be a JRSO and what will be expected from them over the next school year.

The event was arranged to give the young people the chance to meet with JRSOs from other schools, share best practice and find out how they can best fulfil their roles.

Partner organisations also showed their support, and the police, Sustrans, XPO Logistics, Living Streets and Bikeability Scotland were on hand to enhance the pupils' learning experience.

Usually, each school selects two JRSO who are tasked with promoting the very important road safety message to their peers.

The pupils are selected by school

management teams, after interview, if they have shown a keen interest in road safety within their school community.

Each JRSO who attended the information day was provided with a pack containing an activity book, year planner, pen and a lapel badge. Additional information and resources were provided to support them in their role.

There were a number of activities organised throughout the day, such as a traffic trail, road safety game and informational DVD as well as ideas and information about what should be displayed on notice boards in the schools.

Gordon Mackay, Head of Roads and Transportation Services said: "I am delighted that we have so many Junior Road Safety Officers across South Lanarkshire.

"Most schools should already have a junior road safety officer in place for the year ahead, but if not, there's still time to nominate.

"I would like to thank our partners who turned up on the day and helped make the event such a success.

"Hopefully the event will have inspired our officers to take the very important messages back to their schools. I wish every one of them a successful year in their new roles."



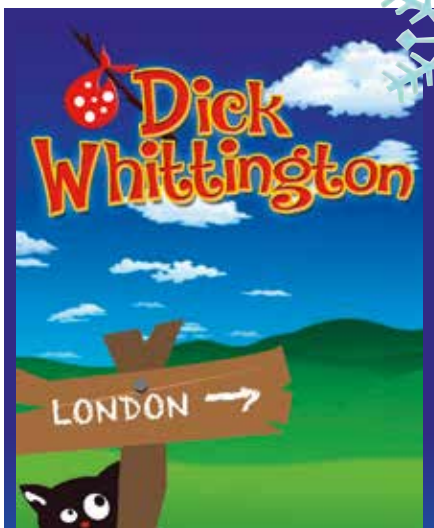
**INFO:** Two pupils show off their packs



**SAFETY:** Two girls learn about trucks sight lines with XPO Logistics Brian Gallagher



**SPEEDY:** Kirklandpark pupils Adam Lawrie and Lara Domelo-Robertson with road safety mascot Speeding Ted



**IT'S PANTO SEASON – OH, YES IT IS**

TURKEY with all the trimmings, perfume gift sets you will never use, more pairs of socks than you have room for, James Bond on the telly and granny having one sherry too many – all telltale signs it's that most wonderful time of the year again.

Yes, some traditions might not be the most magical when it comes to Christmas, but there is one that brings all the family together regardless of age or gender – panto.

The feelgood factor is never more apparent than in the familiar tales featuring songs, slapstick comedy, dancing and the audience joining in with well-known chants like: "Oh, no it's not" and "It's behind you".

And there are plenty of pantos and Christmas themed shows taking place in South Lanarkshire this year for everyone to enjoy.

Hamilton Town House and Rutherglen Town Hall will be hosting Sleeping Beauty, the classic fairy tale of the princess who slept for a hundred years.

Performances will take place from Friday, 4 December until Wednesday,

**The feelgood factor is never more apparent than in the familiar tales featuring songs, slapstick comedy, dancing**

December 9 at the Town House and from Saturday, 12 December until Wednesday, December 23 at the Town Hall.

East Kilbride Arts Centre will be the home for the rags-to-riches tale of Dick Whittington and his trusty cat.

Performances take place from Wednesday, 2 December until Sunday, 6 December, from Wednesday, 9 December until Sunday, 13 December and finally from Wednesday, 16 December until Sunday, December 19.

The Arts Centre will also host a performance of the magnificent Christmas classic, It's a Wonderful Life, on Sunday, 20 December at 4pm and 6.30pm.

And Santa's Sleepover Show, featuring the cast of the hugely popular children's entertainment group the Singing Kettle, will take place at Hamilton Town House on Sunday, December 27 at 1pm and 3.30pm.

# Sleeping Beauty



## WINTER FUN IN



BY SARAH BURROWS

**T**HE Lanark Winter Festival is back this year – bigger and better than before – and is sure to get us all in the festive spirit.

A wide range of events and performances will run from Thursday 10 December all the way through to Christmas.

This year's Festival is shaping up to be another fantastic one with plenty of opportunities for all the family to get involved.

The Big Band Ball and Sing Along Frozen are returning for a second year. And exciting new events are also planned for 2015.

The Festival kicks off with three days of pantomime fun, to get into the festive spirit. Insideout Productions' Aladdin looks set to be a hit with all the family. Starring former X-factor finalist Ricki Loney as Aladdin, the production puts a modern day twist on the classic tale and is full of song, dance and good old Scottish banter.

Purves Puppets are in town on



**FUN TIMES:** Clockwise from below – among the performances taking place across South Lanarkshire are That Swing Sensation, panto Alladin, Let's Drift, Drifter's Review, Pips and Panda and the panto Sleeping Beauty



# SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Monday 14 December with latest ultra violet puppet show Pips and Panda at the North Pole.

For music fans Let's Drift, Drifter's Review should not be missed on Thursday 17 December. Featuring the music of the Drifters, Stevie Wonder and The Four Tops to name a few.

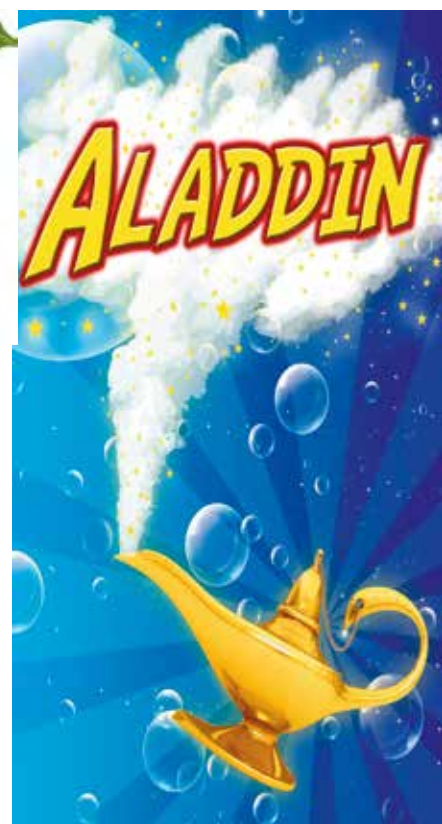
The ever popular That Swing Sensation return to Lanark for another Big Band Christmas Ball on Friday 18 December. Like last year this event looks to be a huge success.

Sing Along Frozen is back with two interactive screenings on Saturday 19 December. This year's event promises to have even more surprises than last year. It's bound to be a hit with princesses young and old.

And to relax in the lead up to the big day, why not settle down to a film or two. On Sunday 20 December it's everyone's favourite The Sound of Music. Another favourite classic Christmas movie The Bishop's Wife is being screened the following day on Monday 21 December.

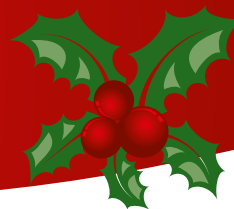


**FOR MORE  
INFO ON TICKETS AND  
PERFORMANCE TIMES:  
EK Arts Centre: 01355  
261 000  
Lanark Memorial Hall:  
01555 667 999  
Hamilton Town House:  
01698 452 299  
Rutherglen Town Hall:  
0141 613 5700  
Online: [www.  
sllcboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk)**





# Festive Holiday Information



## Chatelherault and Calderglen Country Parks

Both parks will be closed 25, 26, 31 December and 1, 2 January.

## Leisure Centres

Leisure Centres will be closed 25-26 December and 1-2 January, with some open for reduced hours on 24 and 31 December. Please check with individual centres for opening times.

## East Kilbride Ice Rink

East Kilbride Ice Rink is closed until autumn 2016 for refurbishment.

## Libraries

All libraries will be closed on 25-28 December and 1-4 January, with reduced opening hours on 24 and 31 December. Please check with individual libraries for opening times.

## Sports Pitches

Ballerup Recreation Area, Tileworks, Bent and Lanark Synthetic Pitches will be closed 24 December – 3 January and grass / blaes pitches will be closed from 21 December. Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds will be closed 24-27 December and 31 December – 3 January.

## Golf Courses

Golf courses will be closed 25, 26 December and 1, 2 January.

## Low Parks Museum

Low Parks Museum will be closed on 25-27 December and 1-3 January.

## Community Halls/Lifestyles Centres

Community Halls will be closed 25, 26 December and 1, 2 January. Please check with halls booking offices for opening times.

Carluke, Stonehouse and Fairhill Lifestyle Centres will be closed 25-28 December and 1-4 January, with the exception of 27 December and 3 January when Carluke Lifestyles will be open.

## Cultural Venues

Hamilton Townhouse and Rutherglen Town Hall will be closed 25-28 December and 1-4 January, with the exception of 27 December when Hamilton Townhouse will be open for a show. Lanark Memorial Hall will be closed 25 December – 4 January. East Kilbride Village Theatre will be closed 25 December – 4 January with the exception of 29 December when it will be open for a show. East Kilbride Arts Centre will be closed 25-28 December and 1-4 January.

Please check our website

[www.slleisureandculture.co.uk](http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk)

or with individual centres for exact opening times as some restrictions apply.



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE  
Leisure & Culture

[www.slleisureandculture.co.uk](http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk)

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited is  
a recognised Scottish Charity, No. SC032549

## Closure of offices

All council offices will be closed on Friday 25 and Monday 28 December 2015 and Friday 1 and Monday 4 January 2016.

If you have a social work emergency when your local social work office is closed contact the Emergency Social Work Service on 0303 123 1008.

## Refuse and recycling collection

There will be some changes to collection arrangements over the festive period as outlined below.

## Week Commencing 21 December

Normal collection day	New collection day
Monday 21 December	No change
Tuesday 22 December	No change
Wednesday 23 December	No change
Thursday 24 December	No change
Friday 25 December	Sunday 27 December

## Week Commencing 28 December

Normal collection day	New collection day
Monday 28 December	No change
Tuesday 29 December	No change
Wednesday 30 December	No change
Thursday 31 December	No change
Friday 1 January	Sunday 3 January

## Week commencing Monday 4 January collection as normal.

Please ensure your bin is out for collection before 7.00am, we cannot guarantee the time that your bin will be emptied but it will be emptied on your day of collection. The only exception to this will be during periods of extreme weather when we must wait until road conditions improve or if access is restricted.

Over the festive period we all tend to generate more refuse than normal eg drinks bottles, cans, paper, magazines, wrapping paper and old Christmas cards. You can take any additional refuse or recyclable material including real Christmas trees to one of your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre's that are located at:

- Hamilton Road Industrial Estate, Strathaven
- College Milton Peel park Industrial Estate, East Kilbride
- Blantyre Industrial Estate, Blantyre
- Strutherhill Industrial Estate, Larkhall
- Castlehill Industrial Estate, Carluke
- Eastfield Cambuslang Road, Rutherglen

For all enquiries relating to litter, dog fouling, illegal dumping, graffiti, fly posting waste collection or disposal, asbestos removal, removal of glass or syringes, recycling, grounds maintenance or waste education, call the Land Services Helpline on 0303 123 1020 (local rate) or email: [landservices@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:landservices@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Urgent registration arrangements

All offices closed in line with the closure of offices section detailed above. In addition, the Hamilton and Rutherglen offices will close at 3pm on 24 and 31 December and will be closed all day on Saturday 26 December 2015 and Saturday 2 January 2016. Appointments only for Lanark and East Kilbride offices will be available on Thursday 24, Tuesday, 29 and Thursday 31 December 2015 and Tuesday 5 January 2016. Arrangements for the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the delivery of other Council Services during the festive period will be displayed at the relevant offices.

In the event of an emergency (for example to carry out a death registration where the deceased has to be taken out of the country) during either holiday period please contact our out of hours contact service on 0800 242024 who will contact a Registrar on your behalf.

## Prepare for winter driving

Winter can be the worst time of the year for driving - frozen radiators, breakdowns, icy roads and there are many hazards that can catch you out if you are not prepared. For trouble-free motoring this winter follow these tips.

- Check your lights, anti-freeze, brakes, battery, tyre tread, tyre pressure, windscreen wipers and washer bottles. Make these checks before winter sets in – and throughout the winter.
- Check weather forecasts and travel bulletins – listen out for police warnings.
- Leave plenty of time for your journey – better late than never.
- Watch out for the dazzle from the sun – use your visor.
- Watch out for ice forming under trees and bridges – you can tell you are on ice if the car runs more quietly and the steering is light.
- Think about carrying an emergency kit including, an ice scraper, spade, road salt, torch, blankets, food and drink – especially for journeys out of town.

## Housing Community Surgeries

Kirkmuirhill Community Flat, 63 Hope Road, Kirkmuirhill, will close after the surgery on Tuesday 22 December – it will reopen on Tuesday 5 January 2016 when the opening hours will be:

Tuesday 9am – 12pm, Wednesday 1pm – 3pm and Thursday 9am – 12 pm (the flat will be closed Mondays and Fridays).

Rigside Surgery (Rigside Community Hall) will be closed Thursday 17, 24 and 31 December, 7 and 14 January. The Surgery will reopen on Thursday 21 January 2pm – 4pm.

