



# Helping Hand

**Schools and nurseries benefit from most ambitious scheme in Europe**

**8-PAGE PULLOUT INSIDE: Councillors' information and useful numbers**

# Domestic Abuse

## How to get help



**Domestic abuse is a pattern of control, which can include emotional, sexual, psychological, financial and physical abuse.**

It affects 1 in 4 women over the course of their lives.

Domestic abuse can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners.

- Domestic abuse is abusive behaviour that is usually ongoing and gets worse over time.
- It is usually persistent, unwanted, abusive behaviour used to exercise control and is a misuse of power.
- It may result in distress, destructive criticism, verbal abuse, injury or death.
- It can affect any person of any age, background, ethnicity and social class.
- Domestic abuse is not caused by stress, unemployment, poverty, alcohol, mental illness, or by those who experience the domestic abuse.
- There is no excuse for domestic abuse.

There are numerous services available to those who have been affected by domestic abuse:

Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 Hours)	<b>0800 027 1234</b>
EVA Services	<b>01236 70 77 67</b>
Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid (Asian, Black and Ethnic Minority Women and Children)	<b>0141 353 0859</b>
Homeless Out of Hours Service	<b>0800 24 20 24</b>
Housing	<b>0303 123 1012</b>
Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Helpline	<b>01698 527 003</b>
Men's Advice Line	<b>0808 801 0327</b>
Scottish Women's Rights Centre	<b>08088 010 789</b>
Social Work	<b>0303 123 1008</b>
Police Scotland	<b>101</b> (non emergency) / <b>999</b> (emergency)
Victim Support	<b>01698 30 1111</b>
Women's Aid South Lanarkshire	<b>01698 891 498</b>

**Welcome message by Council Leader** 4-5



**Schools update...9 out of 10 pupils learning in modern accommodation** 6-9

**New bins arrangements to help hit recycling targets** 10-11

**Helping young people through tough times** 12

**City Deal latest** 13

**Easter fun for all the family** 14-15

**Two Syrian refugee families settled in South Lanarkshire speak of their gratitude** 16-17

**Housing programme builds 600 new homes for the future** 18-19

**COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION AND USEFUL NUMBERS PAGES 21-28**

**£126million roads investment programme on track** 20

**Integration of health and social care brings a sense of identity** 29

**Joiners nail excellent teamwork** 30-31

**Animal magic at Calderglen Children's Zoo** 32-33

**New ice rink at the heart of East Kilbride leisure development** 35

**Editor** Tom Little  
**News editor** James Davitt 01698 453857  
**Cover photo** David Gordon  
**Publisher**



Communications and Strategy, South Lanarkshire Council, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AA  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



p14-15

# inside your reporter



p32-33

**Pupils embrace Confucius Hub Chinese language and culture** 36-37

**Latest news on Welfare Reform** 38

**£5million transforms hidden corner into Cunningar Woodland Park** 39

**Superheroes land in South Lanarkshire for Comic Con** 40-41



p39



p36-37

**New community hub enriching lives of Lesmahagow's older people** 42-43

**Improving contact between customers and council** 44

**Holy Cross High giving girls a sporting chance** 45

**East Kilbride teacher Matt relives his Scottish Cup dream** 46-47



# DELIVERING BEST DESPITE FUNDING

**W**ELCOME to your 2016 edition of *The Reporter*.

We send this magazine to you once a year to keep you informed about the work being carried out on your behalf by South Lanarkshire Council.

This edition is packed with articles that highlight this work, and I hope you will find particularly useful the eight-page pullout in the middle, which provides a handy guide to your councillors including details of how to contact them.

You'll also find the latest news on the massive investment we have made in the future of South Lanarkshire through our Schools Modernisation Programme. As you'll see on **pages 6 and 7**, we have created what I believe is the best schools estate anywhere in Europe.

We are now giving our kids the best possible start in life by nurturing them in top-class learning facilities. With all secondary schools already rebuilt, nine in 10 primary pupils are now in new schools, and the programme is on track for completion by 2018.

**Budget pressures continue to threaten the hard work of your local council, but services continue to excel**  
**By Eddie McAvoy, Council Leader**

Other articles highlight the roll-out of our new recycling bins, which are not only good for the environment but also keep us in line with EU and Scottish Government regulations. You'll also find tips for fun activities this Spring.

On **pages 18 and 19** you'll see how our council house plans are progressing, and how we are using the latest energy saving technology, while on **page 29** there's an outline of how health and social care are being integrated, and on **pages 42 and 43** you'll find the latest news of our work to improve lives for elderly people.



**IMPROVEMENTS:** Roads across South Lanarkshire continue to benefit from council investment

A magazine like *The Reporter* can only tell a small part of the story, as there are too many council services across our large geography to include them all in this publication. Our services touch the lives of every resident in one way or another, and they are fundamental for tens of thousands of people.

Every year it gets harder to make sure that we can provide

**We will continue to manage our £663m budget prudently this year and will always work hard to protect frontline services**

those services, because the council's income has been cut. Council Tax rates have been frozen for the ninth year in a row, and we have faced significant cuts in the grant the council receives from the Scottish Government. This continues to add to the pressure on our budgets.

We have been forced to find more than £90 million in savings in recent years, and your council is already efficiently-run. As a result, every further cut has a potentially significant impact on services, and



**BEST START:** Council Leader Eddie McAvoy outside Bankhead Primary, one of the many new schools built as part of the council's Primary School Modernisation programme

# SERVICES REDUCTIONS

this year we have had to find another £43m in savings.

Nonetheless, as The Reporter went to press, councillors and council workers were working towards a balanced budget for 2016/17. Moreover, we have been able to do so while rejecting some savings proposals which I know would have affected local families.

That's why we have scrapped measures which would have extended to three miles the distance from school pupils must live to qualify for free bus transport. We have also thrown out a number of social work closures, increases in sport and culture charges, and cuts for funding for gala days and Christmas lights.

We will continue to manage our £663m budget prudently this year and will always work hard to protect frontline services

In 2016/17 Education remains our biggest spending area. We also continue to invest in our roads and local housing, while looking after our elderly and most vulnerable people.

Despite the continuing pressure on our budgets, like those across the whole of the public sector, we will continue to provide the services our residents rely upon.

This edition of The Reporter highlights the value of just a small number of those services. I hope you enjoy reading it.



## ALL YOUR FEEDBACK COUNTED

**IN** a large-scale public consultation exercise, every household in South Lanarkshire was sent details of proposals for the council's budget in 2016/17.

Detailed copies of plans were also lodged in the area's libraries and council Q&A offices, while a number of face-to-face consultation sessions were held with representative groups, including the local Citizens Panel, elderly and youth organisations, council employees and tenants, and representing the disabled and ethnic minorities.

Residents were invited to give their views on spending options, including the difficult choices being faced due to the tough economic conditions affecting the whole public sector. The grant the council is given to provide local services continues to decline, while demand for those services rises.

More than 600 views were received and reported to Elected Members as they considered the budget plans. More than half - 56% - were positive or neutral comments, or offered suggestions. The remainder were from respondents who did not agree with proposals.

Negative comments were particularly noted around proposals in education support, especially bus transport arrangements, and social work, notably around The Coalyard and associated services. These savings proposals have now been scrapped by the council administration.

In the consultation sessions 93% of participants agreed that the council's priorities were relevant and there was general support for plans, including on roads savings (92%), school meal prices (68%), and social work reception services (86%).

# NEW SCHOOLS HAVE LEARNING IN MODERN

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

**T**HE groundbreaking £857m Primary Schools Modernisation programme has entered the home straight - with 114 of the 123-strong primary schools estate now complete.

And, after 12 years of continuing investment, the project is on schedule to deliver a modern learning environment for every South Lanarkshire primary, nursery and ASN pupil by 2018.

Indeed, the 11 new schools completed in the last year alone mean that 90% of pupils are now learning in modern accommodation with just two years left to run on the largest primary schools rebuilding programme in the country.

Not only that, the programme has also delivered five new stand-alone nursery schools. The latest of these to open will be the £3m First Step Community Nursery in Hillhouse, Hamilton, in April this year.

Primarily funded and delivered by council resources, the £857m fund has been protected despite unprecedented cuts in Local Government finance.

Councillor Eddie McAvoy, Leader of the Council,



**HAPPY:** Pupils from Auchengray Primary are delighted with their new school (main picture) and Woodside Primary pupils outside their new £9.1m school (bottom left)

explained: "We committed to the Primary Schools Modernisation project 12 years ago and I am very proud that, despite a very challenging economic climate, we have stuck steadfastly to that pledge and are now nearing successful completion.

"Every new school provides light and bright surroundings

creating an ideal place for children to learn and staff to teach in the 21st century. By replacing old, outdated buildings with attractive, modern structures we have also changed scores of our local neighbourhoods for the better, with many providing inclusive facilities for those communities.

"Added to the £318 million Secondary Schools Modernisation Programme which was completed almost a decade ago, I firmly believe that our commitment to providing young people with the very best education possible - from nursery to secondary - has paid off, and will continue to do so for generations to come."

**Over the last year the following primary schools have been completed at a total cost of £65.7m**

■ **Bankhead Primary School, Rutherglen**

- **Carnwath Primary School**
- **Muiregde Primary School, Uddingston**
- **St Bride's Primary School, Cambuslang**
- **Woodside Primary School, Hamilton**
- **Biggar Primary School**
- **Gilmourton Primary School**
- **New Lanark Primary School**
- **Auchengray Primary School**
- **Libberton Primary School**
- **Machanhill Primary School, Larkhall**

Most recently re-opened, the £2.7m Auchengray Primary school has one of the smallest school rolls in South Lanarkshire - teaching 18 pupils (p1-7) from the communities of Auchengray, Tarbrax and Woolfords.

Principal Teacher Jennifer Alexander is delighted with the new campus which the students moved in to at the beginning of this year.



# 9 OUT OF 10 PUPILS ACCOMMODATION



**WORKING HARD:** East Milton Primary pupil Hamzah Ahmed (above), Woodside Primary pupils Eva Fox and Fraser Livingstone at the school's climbing wall (below left) and Auchengray Primary's brother and sister, James (9) and Annabel (6) Dunbar (below right)

we look forward to welcoming them in to enjoy our lovely new school very soon."

Meanwhile over at Woodside Primary in Hamilton, the school's 423 pupils have settled well into their £9.1m state-of-the-art campus.

Headteacher Jan McKeran describes the new school as an "amazing building" which boosts Woodside's "already strong and vibrant ethos".

She went on: "At the design and build stage, we had a lot of say on how the school would look and its layout and features. The children were also able to decide on theme and graphics.

"We wanted it to be bright and warm and welcoming, and for the space to flow in a way that works for us. We're thrilled that it turned out so well for us. It's a spacious school and our staff, pupils and parents just love it.

"The technology in each classroom and across the school enhances learning and we have a school that is fit for the demands of modern education. It's a real privilege to spend our days here."

## How the schools are thriving

■ The Primary Schools Modernisation Programme is scheduled to finish in 2018 having rebuilt or refurbished the 123 schools in the South Lanarkshire primary estate, along with five nursery schools.

■ The smallest school on the programme is the 13-pupil Wiston Primary School in Clydesdale whilst the biggest is Mossneuk Primary in East Kilbride with a school roll of 482.

■ Auchengray Primary is a zero carbon school as it has been designed to be powered by an eco-friendly ground source heating system.

■ Following the completion of the secondary schools programme, every pupil now in our 17 high schools and two ASN secondary schools has only ever been taught in a new, modern environment.



She explained: "Our old school was around 150 years old and a very traditional schoolhouse building. We used the church hall next door for gym and had our lunches delivered pre-cooked each day. Now everything has changed. We have our own gym hall and kitchen where our new cook, Mrs Scott, makes meals from scratch. The whole space is about three times the size of what we had and is light, bright and modern. What's

also lovely is that some of the original stone and slate were retained and have been used to enhance our new building."

The community around the school is also reaping the benefits, courtesy of a MUGA pitch which can be used by local people out of hours.

Concluded Mrs Alexander: "A small rural school like Auchengray is such a focal point for the community. Any shows or events are always well supported by local people and

# NATIONAL AWARD HONOUR

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**A** PROGRAMME supporting children and young people struggling to find their place in the school community has won a prestigious national award.

Over the last few years the Nurture Group at Trinity High School in Rutherglen has been implementing techniques designed to help pupils overcome long lasting difficulties caused by troubled early years experiences.

The group encourages them to engage with their peers and get the most from their time in education.

Now that work has been recognised with the national charity Nurture Group Network presenting the school with its Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award, making it the first Scottish high school to achieve the honour.

The award takes its name from the pioneering psychologist who developed Attachment Theory – the basis for nurture groups which aim to create an accepting

and warm environment within the school setting.

This can recreate missing or distorted early childhood attachments and help a young person develop positive relationships with staff and peers.

The children the Trinity Nurture group works with have been through experiences ranging through a background of early life trauma, bereavement, family breakdown and other traumatic experiences that have left them unable to trust adults, lacking in confidence and struggling with emotions including (at times) anger.

Presenting the Award the Chief Executive of the Nurture Group Network Kevin Kibble said: "Trinity High School has evidenced its success in running an outstanding Nurture Group, and the beneficiaries of their hard work every day are the children attending the school, their families and the wider community. Our standards to achieve this award are exacting and many congratulations are due to the staff and pupils at the school".



Head Teacher Peter Bollen (front) and Chief Executive of the Nurture Group Network Kevin Kibble



Sixth year pupils show their support for the Nurture Group project at Trinity High (l to r) Kelsey Nicol (17), Sean O'Neill (17), Head Teacher Peter Bollen, Chief Executive of the Nurture Group Network Kevin Kibble, Niall McHugh (17) and Rachel Fraser (17)

Head teacher Peter Bollen said: "We are absolutely delighted that the work in nurture over the past few years has been recognised. This is a testament to the hard work, commitment and care of the staff and a tremendous accolade for all who support our work. It is a privilege for Trinity High School to receive the Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award which will act as a catalyst for taking forward our nurturing practices within and beyond the school and help many of our young people to improve their life chances."

Principal Teacher for Pupil Support at Trinity High Michael Murray said; "We identify pupils who could benefit from our Nurture Group when they are nearing the end of primary school

**"We identify pupils who could benefit from our Nurture Group"**

and due to make the transition to Trinity and have had more than 50 benefit from the support we can offer."

"One of the children we worked with early on would barely speak to staff or fellow pupils and struggled to cope in the school environment to such an extent that there were discussions around a transfer to an additional needs school where more specialist provision would be available.

"However we took the decision to go forward with the Nurture Group approach and in first year the pupil was very highly involved with the group but as time went on the involvement tapered off as she became more confident in class and began to make friends, by the end of 4th year she had become an occasional visitor.

"At the end of her school career that pupil went on to higher education, something that was





**ACHIEVEMENT:**  
Joan with P1 pupils Finlay McPherson and Caitlin Alexander

## Castlefield teacher marks 40 years at school

Principal teacher Joan McQueen recently celebrated 40 years as a teacher at Castlefield Primary School in Greenhills, East Kilbride.

Joan, who also lives in East Kilbride, began teaching at the school in November 1975. Since then she has taught more than 1,200 pupils, covering all age groups from nursery to primary seven. Those she has taught include three generations of local families

**“I enjoy teaching today as much as I did when I started out.”**

and she still keeps track of some of her first pupils.

Ring the changes, Joan says that teaching today is much more active and much less formal than it was when she started out over four decades ago. But one thing that hasn't changed is her love of teaching.

Joan said: “I enjoy teaching today as much as I did when I started out.

“Every child has something to offer and I love the challenge and the opportunity to help unlock their potential. The world changes so quickly and pupils today will have jobs in the future that don't exist now.

“I believe that if we equip them with the fundamentals in education and help them to develop as responsible young citizens, then we're preparing them to make the most of the opportunities that will come their way in life. What job could offer greater satisfaction than that?”

Castlefield's Head Teacher, Penny McLaughlin, says Joan is an asset to the school: “Forty years service is a fantastic achievement and it's quite unusual for it to be gained in one school. The knowledge and experience that Joan has of both the school and the local community is invaluable and a great support to me as Head Teacher. On behalf of our school I'd like to congratulate Joan and thank her for her contribution and commitment.”



Sixth year pupils Rachel Fraser and Niall McHugh admire the award

contrary to all expectations when she had started out at Trinity.”

“Another pupil I recall did not want to come to school following the death of a parent and when he was here he did not want to engage with anyone but we persevered and made sure there was always someone

there for him and he did become more comfortable in the Nurture Group Base and felt able to speak to staff.

“That started to transfer to class and improved attendance and he ultimately completed school and successfully went on to further education.”

# NEW BINS MEAN EVEN

**Reducing the amount of landfill waste has environmental and financial benefits**

BY ANDY LIVINGSTONE

**M**ORE than 40,000 homes in East Kilbride and Strathaven are receiving an improved waste and recycling service as new arrangements, including food-waste collection, are introduced in the area.

The new system is currently being rolled out in four stages across South Lanarkshire and is now seeing 30,000 properties and 10,000 flats in the East Kilbride and Strathaven areas receiving the new services.

Altogether, more than 2400 tonnes of food and garden waste have been collected in the first areas to receive the new service – Hamilton, Blantyre, Bothwell and Uddingston – since collection started in June 2015, which has meant a reduction in the amount of waste the council has to send to landfill.

Reducing the amount of landfill waste has environmental and financial benefits and also helps the council towards meeting the Scottish Government's recycling targets for household waste.

The vast majority of householders in these initial areas have responded well to using the new service and the council has noticed an improvement in the way that residents are recycling their waste.

**The following changes will now apply in East Kilbride and Strathaven areas:**

■ The burgundy bin that you currently use for glass will now be used to **collect food and garden waste**. If you don't currently have a burgundy bin or if your bin is broken, you can request a repair or replacement by using the online form at [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/forms/form/128/en/request\\_a\\_burgundy\\_bin](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/forms/form/128/en/request_a_burgundy_bin)

■ You will receive a new kitchen caddy and liners to collect food waste. The waste can then be transferred to your outdoor burgundy bin. The council will then collect the waste and

deliver it to a composting facility. If you currently compost at home you can still do so, but your burgundy bin should still be used to dispose of meat and bones (which can't be composted at home)

■ You will also receive a new light-grey bin to collect plastics, cans and glass together

■ Your blue bin is also changing and will be used to collect paper and cardboard only

■ There will be no changes to your non-recyclable (black or green) waste bin.

The new light-grey bin, kitchen caddy and caddy liners are being delivered, along with an information booklet containing a new bin collection calendar, to houses with gardens in a process lasting until March 4, and to flats during February and between March 7 and 12.

The new service is being introduced in East Kilbride and Strathaven over two phases, with Phase 1 including East and West Mains, Calderwood, St Leonard's, Brancumhall, Westwood and Murray, and Phase 2 including Stewartfield, Greenhills, Mossneuk, Lindsayfield, Whitehills, Newlandsmuir, Strathaven and the outlying areas.

The final two stages of the new recycling service will be coming to the Rutherglen and Cambuslang area in the summer and towards the end of 2016 for Clydesdale (Lanark, Carluke, Biggar and surrounding areas).

Anyone wishing further information can find it on the council website at [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or by calling 0303 123 1020.



**Waste disposal done by the (statute) book**

**The council's services for waste collection must operate in line with a number of statutory obligations that are placed on local authorities by the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.**

# MORE BEING RECYCLED

## CHANGES:

Residents in East Kilbride and Strathaven will now be able to separate their food waste, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill



## Colours of the bins

East Kilbride has a variety of house types so the waste-collection service is tailored in certain cases according to what is most appropriate. However, in general the following system of colour coding applies:

**Blue bin:** this takes only paper and cardboard (known as the fibre mix).

**Light-grey bin:** this is a new bin and is provided for glass bottles, jars, plastic bottles, cans, tins and aerosols (known as the container mix).

**Burgundy bin:** This was previously used for glass, but is now for food and garden waste.

**Black or green bin:** this is for all waste that is not able to be recycled.

**Kitchen caddy:** This is supplied with liners and is to allow you to collect food waste, which can then be transferred to your outdoor burgundy bin. If you compost at home, you can still do so but your burgundy bin should be used to dispose of meat and bones, which can't be composted at home).

Alternative arrangements are made for residents of flats or properties that have either no access to the rear garden but space at the front of the house or no access to the rear and no space at the front, and these householders are notified of these arrangements as they are relevant to them.

## THE REGULATIONS AMENDED:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000
- Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003
- Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011

They also introduced a variety of far-reaching measures as part of Scotland's Zero Waste Plan. The Plan seeks a zero waste society where the use of resources is minimised, valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted into separate streams for reprocessing.

The priority is to prevent waste in the first place. If that is not possible, then the order of preference that we should aim for is to reuse,

recycle and recover the waste. The disposal of waste, such as by landfill, is regarded as the least desirable option.

## UNDER THE REGULATIONS:

- Any person who produces "controlled waste" will have a duty to take all reasonable steps to separate dry recyclable waste;
- Local authorities have a duty to provide receptacles to householders to enable them to recycle materials such as paper, card, plastics, metals and glass; local authorities must also provide a food waste collection service to all non-rural properties;
- Landfill operators are already banned from accepting separately collected waste that could have been recycled and will be banned from accepting biodegradable municipal waste from January 1, 2021.

# HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

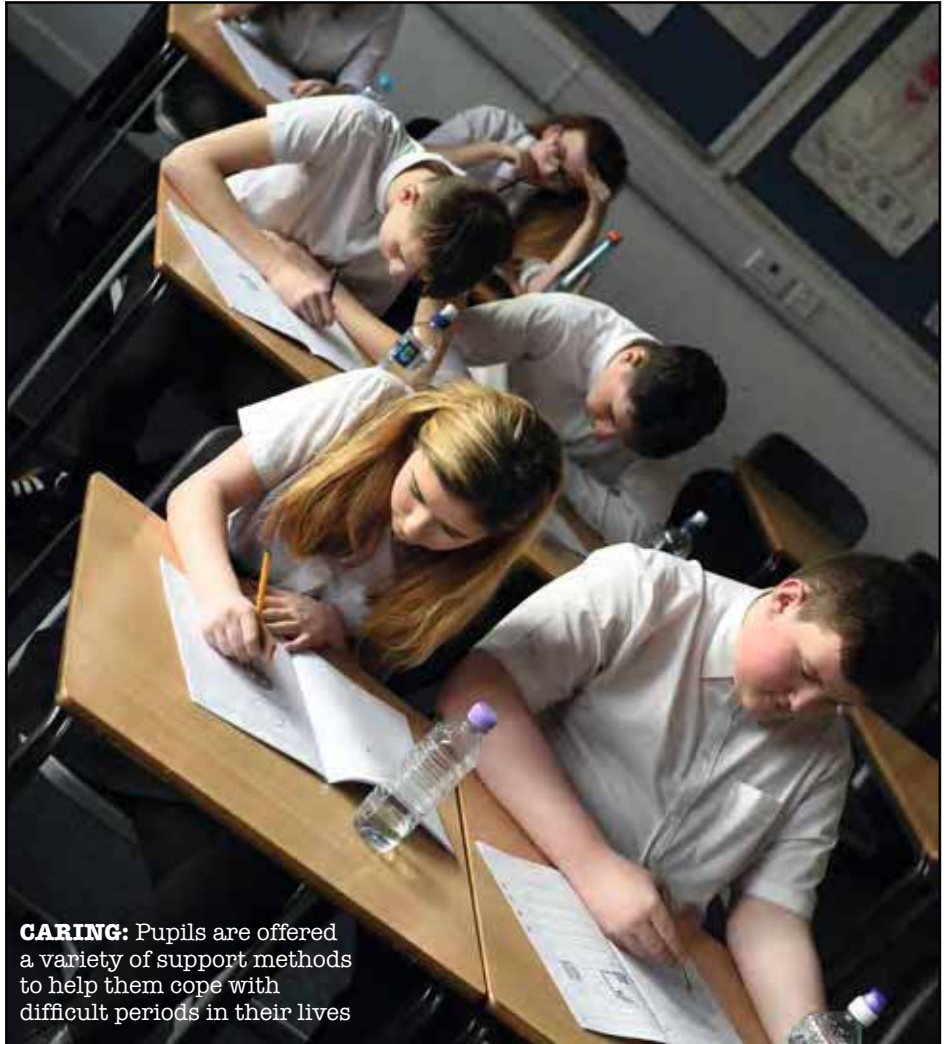
BY SARAH BURROWS

**S**UPPORTING children and young people through the stresses and strains of life is a top priority for the council's Psychological Services Team.

In addition to helping pupils with additional support needs in schools, the team offers support for other areas of life that many young people find hard to deal with.

Elizabeth King, the council's Principal Psychologist said: "One of the main areas we get asked about is support for young people who are experiencing a difficult time following a bereavement or loss."

Events like divorce, separation, loss of a loved one or other major trauma can be deeply distressing to a young person. These events often also bring associated changes



**CARING:** Pupils are offered a variety of support methods to help them cope with difficult periods in their lives



**"Another main area of concern for young people is how to deal with the stress that surrounds exams."**

in other areas of life, such as a change of home, school or living arrangement.

For children and young people these changes can be difficult. They often feel overwhelmed, confused or unable to cope.

Give Us A Break! is an 8-week group work programme for 10-14 year olds which was developed by South Lanarkshire Council Psychological Services in collaboration with Macmillan Cancer Support and NHS Lanarkshire. Since the programme was launched in 2009, 460 children and young people have taken part.

Elizabeth said: "We had wonderful

advice throughout the development of the programme from teachers, young people, parents and carers and those who work to support young people through the challenging times of bereavement and loss. We are indebted to a wide range of colleagues and very proud of the successful partnership approach."

The Give Us A Break! programme gives young people a chance to make sense of these experiences in a supportive environment with others who have gone through similar changes and also helps to build a deeper understanding in adults about just what young people go through following on from bereavement and loss.

Elizabeth said: "Another main area of concern for young people is how to deal with the stress that surrounds exams. There has been a marked increase in young people who require support during this difficult time, and as a result we've recently launched our BEST programme."

The BEST resource - Beating Exam Stress

Techniques - will give young people the chance to develop the skills to cope with the challenges of all forms of assessments.

The resource pack was originally developed by Psychological Service in partnership with Skills Development Scotland and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) as part of a programme aimed at supporting young people in their apprenticeship pre-entry tests.

Since then, it's been reviewed and the materials have been further developed to provide a standalone adult-led resource which is appropriate for young people of secondary age facing class tests, NABs and SQA examinations.

Elizabeth continues: "It is an activity-based resource and encourages young people to use psychological strategies to minimise stress and anxiety that they may encounter prior to presenting for exams.

"The hope is that it will help a great many young people in the lead up to the exams in May."

**The proposed school will have 18 classrooms, nursery class provision and indoor and outdoor community facilities**



# Deal brings investment to local communities

**A** NEW primary school, 1500 new homes and a local retail centre are to be built in Newton thanks to the £1.13 billion Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal.

The Newton Community Growth Area project will also see improvements to roads in and around the area, enhanced park and ride facilities at Newton station and sustainable improvements to the local environment.

Further Community Growth Area projects are planned for Hamilton, Larkhall and East Kilbride.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, Councillor Eddie McAvoy, said: "I am delighted that we are now moving forward with the first of our exciting Community Growth Area projects.

"We are obviously aware that there is a need for more primary

school places in Newton and this will only increase with the new homes that are also part of the Community Growth Area project.

"We simply do not have the resources on our own to move forward with a plan such as this, which is one of the many reasons why I am so enthusiastic about City Deal.

"I look forward to working closely with our other partners to deliver this significant and large-scale project over the coming years.

"It will create jobs and help

**It is estimated that up to 29,000 jobs may be created and there could be additional private sector investment in the region of £3.3 billion**

cement the Clyde Valley region as one of Europe's leading areas with a vibrant, thriving economy."

The proposed school will have 18 classrooms, nursery class provision and indoor and outdoor community facilities including an all weather pitch, changing rooms, meeting space and hall, with the total floorspace more than 4000 square metres.

As well as the Community Growth Areas, the other City Deal projects in the South Lanarkshire area are the construction of the Cathkin Bypass, capacity improvements along both Greenhills Road / A726 in the south of East Kilbride and through the Stewartfield Way corridor to the north of East Kilbride.

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal is an agreement between the UK government,

the Scottish Government and eight local authorities across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

The UK and Scottish Governments will each contribute £500million in grant funding, and the local authorities will borrow a further £130million.

Officials from each of the eight local authorities as well as other local partner organisations worked to develop the City Deal.

It is estimated that up to 29,000 jobs may be created and there could be additional private sector investment in the region of £3.3 billion.

The other areas to benefit from City Deal alongside South Lanarkshire are East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire.



# Hop into Spring in

BY SARAH BURROWS

**T**HERE'S lots on over Easter and Spring Break to keep little ones occupied - from traditional Easter fun to craft and activity classes, kids' theatre and Active Ace Camps... there's something to put a spring in the step of children of all ages.

At Chatelherault Country Park in Hamilton there will be Easter themed craft activities, quizzes, Easter egg hunt, face painting and fairground rides from Friday 25 to Monday 28 March from 12pm - 4pm each day.

On Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 March between 10am and 12pm there's a chance to have breakfast with the Easter Bunny himself. A full breakfast is on offer with tea or coffee for only £5.50 for adults and £3.50 for kids. Booking for this is essential - call to reserve your table.

For the fitness fanatics who want to work off those Easter Eggs there's an Easter Bunnet race on Saturday 26 March 1k for active 5-9 year olds, 3k for 9 - 15 year olds and 5k for ages 15 and over.



There's also an adult 10k trail. For more info or to book log on to [www.entrycentral.com](http://www.entrycentral.com)

And on Easter Sunday there's the old family favourite of decorating eggs and rolling them down the banking in front of the Hunting Lodge. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance.

In Calderglen Country Park in East Kilbride there's loads on too.

On Mon 28 March from 11.30am - 1.30pm there's a Mad Hatter's Tea Party planned, which looks set to be a fun family event with stories, crafts and a walk through the rabbit hole!

On 24, 25, 28 and 29 March from 11.30am - 3pm there's a special Animal Easter event in the Conservatory for some fun filled activities.

An Easter Egg Treasure Hunt will be running from Thursday 24 March - Sunday 17 April from 10pm-4pm daily. Children of all ages will have fun exploring the conservatory, ornamental gardens and zoo following the clues to solve the Easter puzzle.

From Monday 4 - Friday 8 April it's Insectivore Week at Calderglen. From 11.30am until 4 each day there's a chance to meet some of Calderglen Zoo's friendliest animals and design food bags for the meerkats and their friends.

Craft Workshops will run on 26 and 27 March and 11, 13 and 15 April from 12pm - 4pm daily there's a chance for children of



all ages to get crafty.

There is a small charge for some events at Calderglen Country Park and Chatelherault. Please check in advance.

If you're looking for something indoors to do with the kids during the school holidays then look no further than the



Also running during the school holidays are the ever popular ACE Camps for primary aged pupils.

The camps run from 10am - 3pm each day and cost: £14.40/£7.20 Concession/ACE

**Hamilton Town House**

**Thursday 7th April and Monday 11th April**

**Rutherglen Town Hall**

**Monday 4th April and Wednesday 13th April**

**Lanark Memorial Hall**

**Tuesday 5th April and Tuesday 12th April**

**East Kilbride Arts Centre**

**Friday 8th April and Friday 15th April**



# South Lanarkshire



**CUDDLES:** Oliver Jackson meets Chatelherault's Easter Bunny (main picture) while his twin brother Jacob gets ready to celebrate (far left). The history of former mining communities is explored in the Pits, Ponies, People and Stories exhibition (left) while *Elves and the shoemaker* (below) is a fun adaptation of Grimm's tale

To book or for more information visit [www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk)

Or call:

**Chatelherault: 01698 426213**

**Calderglen: 01355 236644**

**Hamilton Townhouse: 01698 452299**

**Rutherglen: 0141 613 5700**

**Lanark Memorial Hall: 01555 667999**

**EK Arts Centre: 01355 261000**

**EK Village Theatre: 01355 248669**

**Low Parks Museum Hamilton: 01698 328232**



The Puppet Animation Festival presents *Elves & the Shoemaker* on Thursday 7 April. A fun adaption of this Grimm's tale is retold with the help of beautiful Elf puppets, objects and of course, lots of lovely shoes!

Starting at 2.30pm, tickets for these performances are priced at £6 per person or £20 for a family of four.

On Saturday 9 April the hugely popular baby disco *Rusk!* will be returning with a pyjama party theme. So bring your little ones down for some afternoon fun and join them in cutting some shapes on the dancefloor. Kicking off at 2pm tickets are £5 with free entry for all adults.

And in the Town House, Hamilton the *Gruffalo's Child* will be featured from 15 - 17 April and is sure to be popular with children of all ages.

On 6 April in Lanark Memorial Hall it's another creature on the loose. *Purves Puppets* are back as *Pips and Panda* travel on their adventures to *Toothfairyland*. With lots of laughter, fun and songs to join in, this spectacular performance keeps all ages entertained with its world-class

puppetry and amazing visual effects. All tickets are £5.50.

Disney's *Beauty and The Beast* at the EK Village Theatre looks set to be another great event for budding princesses. Running from Thursday 31 March - Saturday 2 April 2016 at 7.30pm and on Saturday Matinee 2.30pm £10 / £8 concession

Or if something more interactive is in order - look no further than the Kid's Sunday Magic Show at EK Arts Centre on Sunday 3 April at 1pm. Magician Douglas Cameron presents his latest magical wonders for all the family in this fun show. Despite making things vanish and appear, he is able to do this with 'nothing up his sleeves'. Most suitable for children aged 3 to 10 with all tickets £5.

And in Low Parks Museum in Hamilton a *Pits, Ponies, People and Stories* exhibition will run until the end of the year. The project has been a fascinating journey into the shared heritage handed down through the people in South Lanarkshire's former mining communities and the exhibition is the culmination of two years hard work.



events at Rutherglen Town Hall.

On Wednesday 6 April Jabuti Theatre's production of *Moonbean on a Cat's Ear* will be performed. A simple, yet compelling story about two children, a cat and a mouse, and their adventure with the moon.

# Refugees say

## INTERVIEW

BY TOM LITTLE

**T**HE two Syrian families who have come to South Lanarkshire as part of the UK's refugee resettlement programme are still working hard on their English. But one message comes through loud and clear...

"Thank you!" they say repeatedly, when interviewed by The Reporter. "Thank you very much Lanarkshire people. Thank you everybody who has helped us."

They look grateful, too, and happy. Happy to be here - despite the rain, despite the language barrier, despite being thousands of miles from home, and away from members of their family and most of their friends. Despite all this, they are happy because they finally feel safe.

These first Syrians to be welcomed to South Lanarkshire have been settled within a short walk of one another in the Rutherglen area. Four of the five children, all aged eight or under, have been enrolled in a local primary school and nursery.

After enduring months of conflict in Syrian, then four years of discomfort and uncertainty in a refugee camp in Lebanon, they were flown to Scotland last December. They were the first of up to 60 refugees likely to come to the area in

**Two families have been welcomed to South Lanarkshire after fleeing Syria and spending four years in a Lebanese camp. Here, they speak of their relief and gratitude.**

the first year of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS).

This follows the UK Government expanding the SVPRS to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees from camps neighbouring Syria by 2020. The Scottish Government has said that Scotland should accept at least 1,000 refugees.

When the council's Executive Committee agreed that South Lanarkshire should play its part, councillors heard that many of those who would benefit from the SVPRS included survivors of violence and torture. The two

families can bear witness to that, though, given what they have been through, they are understandably cautious about being identified in our interview.

"Before the war life was good in Syria," says 'R', who has already picked up enough English to act as an interpreter, when needed, for her husband 'A' and the other couple, husband 'M' and wife 'H'. "It was very nice before the conflict. But then it turned bad."

Both families describe how they were targeted and daily life became unbearable and dangerous. "We had to leave and went to Lebanon," A said. "We lived with many other families in a shared building. It was very bad, as you need a lot of money to live, for room and to shop. But you are not allowed to work, and if work, very little money."

How does that compare to Scotland?

"People here are smiling every time and they help us," R says. "People here are very

**"When the crisis started to unfold and it became clear that both the Westminster and Scottish governments intended to act, we said that South Lanarkshire Council was willing to help."**





# 'thanks!'



and recite the names of the South Lanarkshire Council staff who met them at the airport, took them to their new homes and have been helping them settle and integrate in the area.

They have managed a few excursions, too – shopping in East Kilbride, with a stop-off at a soft play area (“The children, they bound around!” laughs H), visiting Rutherglen Town Hall and the Library, a trip to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow and to the play areas in Strathclyde Park. Also, they were special lunch guests at the Lanarkshire Mosque in Bellshill, where they were able to meet up with other Syrian families living in North Lanarkshire.

The families knew very little about Scotland before they arrived, or even the UK. But they misunderstand a question about London to make it clear they are glad to be in South Lanarkshire, rather than there. “London very expensive and very busy,” says M. H adds: “People here speak to us. People in London very busy.”

When pushed to name something they don’t like, the answer is inevitable: “The rain. Every time - rain, rain, rain!” says R. But, with a predictable smile, she adds: “No problem!”

Andrea Sinclair, who has been working with the two families in her role as the council’s Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Advisor, said: “Working with them over the past few months has been extremely satisfying but also incredibly humbling.

“The resilience that the families have, first of all leaving everything behind in Syria, living within a refugee camp and finally having the strength to move to a country where the language, culture and environment is totally different, shows that they are strong people who have the courage to move where required for the sake of their family.

“It is a pleasure providing the families with support to settle and integrate into their new community. Watching them enjoying their new life in South Lanarkshire is very rewarding.”

Eddie McAvo, South Lanarkshire Council Leader, said: “When the crisis started to unfold and it became clear that both the Westminster and Scottish governments intended to act, we said that South Lanarkshire Council was willing to help.

“We expect a total of 12 to 15 families, around 60 people in total, will come to South Lanarkshire in the next year. Housing associations will be involved in helping us house the refugees, and I am sure they will all receive a good Scots welcome in their new communities.”

The SVPRS is administered by the Home Office, which has safeguards in place to ensure people are genuine refugees. Funding arrangements have also been agreed with the Home Office and the Scottish Government to cover the cost of participation in the scheme.

good. All people in Rutherglen good, friendly and helpful. Every time, they smile and say ‘hi’. Our neighbours are very nice and they gave us Christmas cards.

“We are happy here. Happy and safe, especially for the children. They like school very much and they learn English, numbers, the colours, about the body. They make friends and they play too.”

At the word “friends” all the adults smile



**SUPPORT:** The UK’s refugee resettlement programme has meant South Lanarkshire has welcomed two families from Syria recently

# ENERGY SAVING

**Programme will see in excess of 600 new homes**

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**W**ITH the latest energy saving technology built into the new generation of homes being provided through South Lanarkshire's ambitious council house building programme, high standards are being set for others to follow.

The investment in providing new homes builds on the achievements of the on-going Home Happening programme which has seen the council working with tenants to achieve the national housing quality standard by delivering a wide range of improvements to its 25,400 homes.

Executive Director of Housing and Technical Resources Daniel Lowe said: "Our existing housing stock has seen more than £430million spent on providing modern kitchens and bathrooms, new central heating systems, roofing, doors, windows and insulation. These measures have all helped to improve the quality of tenants' homes and assist in tackling fuel poverty by reducing running costs."

With a sizeable proportion of the housing stock in South Lanarkshire sold off under the Right-to-Buy scheme and more than 16,000 people on the waiting list for housing, one way of making a small but important contribution to meeting the increased demand for housing is through the new build programme. This ambitious programme, which will see in excess of 600 new homes built over the next few years, represents a long term commitment from the council to help increase the supply of new homes and provides an opportunity to tailor some of those homes to meet particular housing needs.

Already seven homes have been designed and purpose built to meet the specific requirements of individuals living with severe disabilities, not only improving their quality of life, but also making it possible for families to stay together and provide care.

Flexibility has also been an important part of the design brief for the new build homes. In some bungalow designs the construction has left the potential for loft conversions to suit growing families. Stronger beams have been used in some homes so a hoist can be easily installed should one be required for tenants with limited mobility in the future.



**HAPPY TENANT:** Former soldier Jack McCutcheon who moved into a new-build council house in Fernhill following major regeneration work in the area. Jack is delighted with his ground-floor home in Neilvaig Drive. "This is a great house," he said. "But people are so important to your happiness and I have to say that my neighbours have been really friendly. That makes all the difference."

**Already seven homes have been designed and purpose built to meet the specific requirements of individuals living with severe disabilities**

In Carluke a development of up to 23 two, three and four bedroom homes is currently planned on the site of the former Carluke Primary to help meet demand for more family homes in the area.

In Uddingston 12 amenity homes are set to be built on Old Mill Road on the site of the former Uddingston Hall to provide accommodation designed to allow older people to continue living independently in their own homes.

A key element of the continuing work

# TECHNOLOGY



**BUILDING PROGRAMME:**  
Baird Hill and  
under construction -  
Belmont Drive



to complete the regeneration of the Fernhill area is the new council housing which will see a further 70 new homes delivered in the coming year to complement the 170 new homes jointly delivered by West of Scotland Housing Association and the council. Along with investment which has seen the completion of the new Fernhill Community Centre and five new retail units, residents are seeing the ambitious Fernhill Masterplan come to a conclusion.

During 2014/15, work got underway on

a development of 28 new homes at Baird Hill in East Kilbride and the first tenants were able to move in during October of last year with more than a dozen units now occupied.

At Belmont Drive in East Kilbride tenants are expected to begin moving into the first of 22 new homes on the site early this Spring.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Housing and Technical Resources, Councillor Alex McInnes said: "I am proud of what we are achieving through our new house building programme and delighted whenever I

receive an update on the programme. It's always good to hear about new sites being identified, plans being developed, projects getting underway and completed - but the thing that is most pleasing is the feedback from new tenants once they have moved in about the difference their new home has made.

"Our approach to new build allows the council to pursue a programme that is very responsive to local needs. By understanding how those needs are best met at the earliest stages of a new build development, we are able to get the best value from our available resources and provide great assistance to those households taking up tenancies.

"We know how much demand there is for good quality homes and we know how many people are on our waiting lists but we are not in the least bit complacent about these

**I am proud of  
what we are achieving  
through our new house  
building programme and  
delighted whenever I  
receive an update on the  
programme.  
- Alex McInnes**

challenges and our responsibility to strive to provide safe, comfortable and affordable housing for families and individuals."

"A great deal of thought and planning is put into achieving the most significant benefits from our programme both in terms of meeting housing need and ensuring that every home we build is to the most modern standard and is located where it is most needed.

"Our new homes are designed to be safe and secure and ensure that future maintenance requirements are reduced. Homes are also designed with the most modern energy efficiency measures including insulation and high efficiency boilers, investment in renewable energy systems such as solar power and heat pumps which will minimise running costs for tenants and contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

"A survey of the first tenants in our new council built homes gave us very positive feedback and we continue to look to tenants views to help shape our future programme and designs."

# Around £12 million invested this year alone



**And that's not all...**  
This year saw the start of a £20 million programme to replace South Lanarkshire's 58,000 street light bulbs with more cost effective and environmentally friendly LEDs.  
In the year ahead £1.7million will also be invested in extending cycling paths across the area via the South Lanarkshire Cycling Partnership.

# On the road to success

BY ANGELA MCMANUS

**T**HE council is now almost three quarters of the way through its massive 12-year roads improvement programme which represents a total investment of £126 million. With more than 200 individual schemes, it's the only programme of its size in Scotland.

And it's been sustained in a challenging economic climate, with ever-increasing pressure on public sector budgets, demonstrating that this is a high priority for the council. The investment in improving South Lanarkshire's roads network has been delivered on time and on budget year-on-year since 2008 and is accruing significant benefits.

South Lanarkshire Council's Head of Roads and Transportation, Gordon Mackay,

said: "As well as significantly better roads, we've also seen a 49% reduction in the number of defects since 2008 and a 53% reduction in the number of claims received. That means that we're paying out less in repairs and claims and can put that money to better use elsewhere.

"We're also pleased to say that our investment has seen the council move up the local authority roads league table from being number 25 on the list for best roads to number 12. And we mean to improve on this performance further by the end of the programme."

Around £12 million has been invested over the last year alone on key roads improvements over the year, with major resurfacing work in areas across South Lanarkshire.

## Clydesdale Area

- Harelaw roundabout to Muirhead - £215,514.
- Mauldslie Road in Carluke - £171,640.
- Wester Heathland to West Lothian Boundary, Forth - £324,542

## East Kilbride, Rutherglen and Cambuslang

- A71 Darvel Road, Caldermill - £378,000
- Greenhills Road, East Kibride - £281,000
- Stroud Road, East Kilbride - £155,000
- Kings Park Avenue, Rutherglen - £101,000
- Hamilton Road - Hallside Boulevard, Cambuslang - £108,000
- Lightburn Road, Cambuslang - £95,000



## Hamilton Area

- Wellhall Road, Hamilton - £128,000
- Fallside Road, Bothwell - £170,000
- Fernslea Avenue, Blantyre - £117,000

All material from the old surfaces is recycled and reused which has both a commercial and an environmental value, improving the area's carbon footprint.

Now that most of the major routes have been resurfaced, the next phase will move onto residential roads. Gordon added: "Over the next few years of the programme, residents and road users will start to see improvements in local roads in and around their own neighbourhoods and communities."

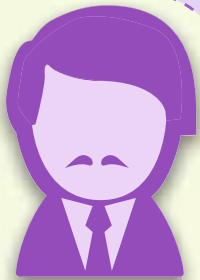


it's your area

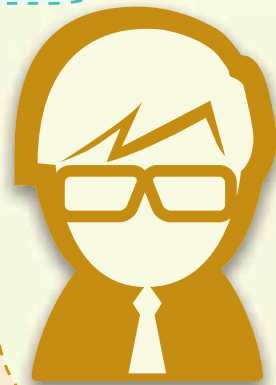
# Get involved!



What election area do I live in?



How do I contact my councillor?



What do councillors do?



Who makes decisions?



What is my area/ward called?



Why should I vote?



your questions answered

8 page pull out and keep



## Why should I vote?

**This is your council and it's important you have your say on how things are done.**

The council is legally responsible for providing important public services and making decisions on behalf of the local community about local services such as education, social care, roads, waste, cultural services and planning.

Scottish councils also have a duty to work with health, police, fire, Scottish Enterprise and the voluntary sector to plan and co-ordinate services in their area. This is known as community planning.

The people of South Lanarkshire are invited to vote for the councillors who form the council.

The last full council elections were on 3 May 2012. They are next due on Thursday 4 May 2017. (After this, they will take place every four years).

Occasionally, by-elections are called when a seat becomes vacant.



## Who makes decisions?

**South Lanarkshire covers a big area – 684 square miles. This area is divided into 20 wards. The ward boundaries are set by an independent body known as the Boundary Commission who look at population changes, carry out consultations and decide what will be included in a particular ward.**

Voters from each of these wards elect three or four councillors, depending on the size of the ward. In Scottish councils, councillors are elected by the Single Transferable Vote system – where people mark their ballot paper with a '1' for their first preference, '2' for their second preference, '3' for their third preference and so on – they can mark as many or as few as they like.

This aim of this style of voting is to ensure the result more closely reflects how people voted. With three or four councillors in each ward, wards generally have councillors from more than one political party.

South Lanarkshire has 67 councillors to cover the 20 wards in the area. They form the council and are responsible for making all the key decisions.

The day to day work of the council is carried out by employees who work for the council. Senior council employees also work with the councillors to develop the council's plans, strategies and policies.

This pull-out is designed to help you contact your councillors if you wish to do so. If you are still not sure which ward you live in or which councillors represent that ward, you can check on our website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or phone Members Services on 01698 454366.

## What do councillors do?



**Councillors attend full council meetings and several committees. They're also responsible for appointing the Provost, the Council Leader and the Chairs and Deputies for each of the committees.**

Committees make decisions on particular areas of service provided by the council. All political parties on the council are involved in the various committees, which include Education, Social Work, Enterprise, Housing and Technical Resources, and Finance and Corporate.

Most council meetings are open to the public, and dates and locations can be checked on a calendar on the 'Councillors and Committees' section of our website. You can also read and download the agenda and reports for the meetings. Occasionally, press and public are excluded from certain meetings or certain agenda items – for example adoption panels – but most meetings are open and seats are set aside for the public.

As well as attending council meetings, councillors take an interest in what's happening in the area they represent. For example, they may attend meetings of community councils, school councils or other local interest groups. Many hold local surgeries or publish a telephone number so people can contact them to discuss matters that concern them.

Councillors can also be nominated to represent the council on other public bodies at national or local level.

## Your vote counts

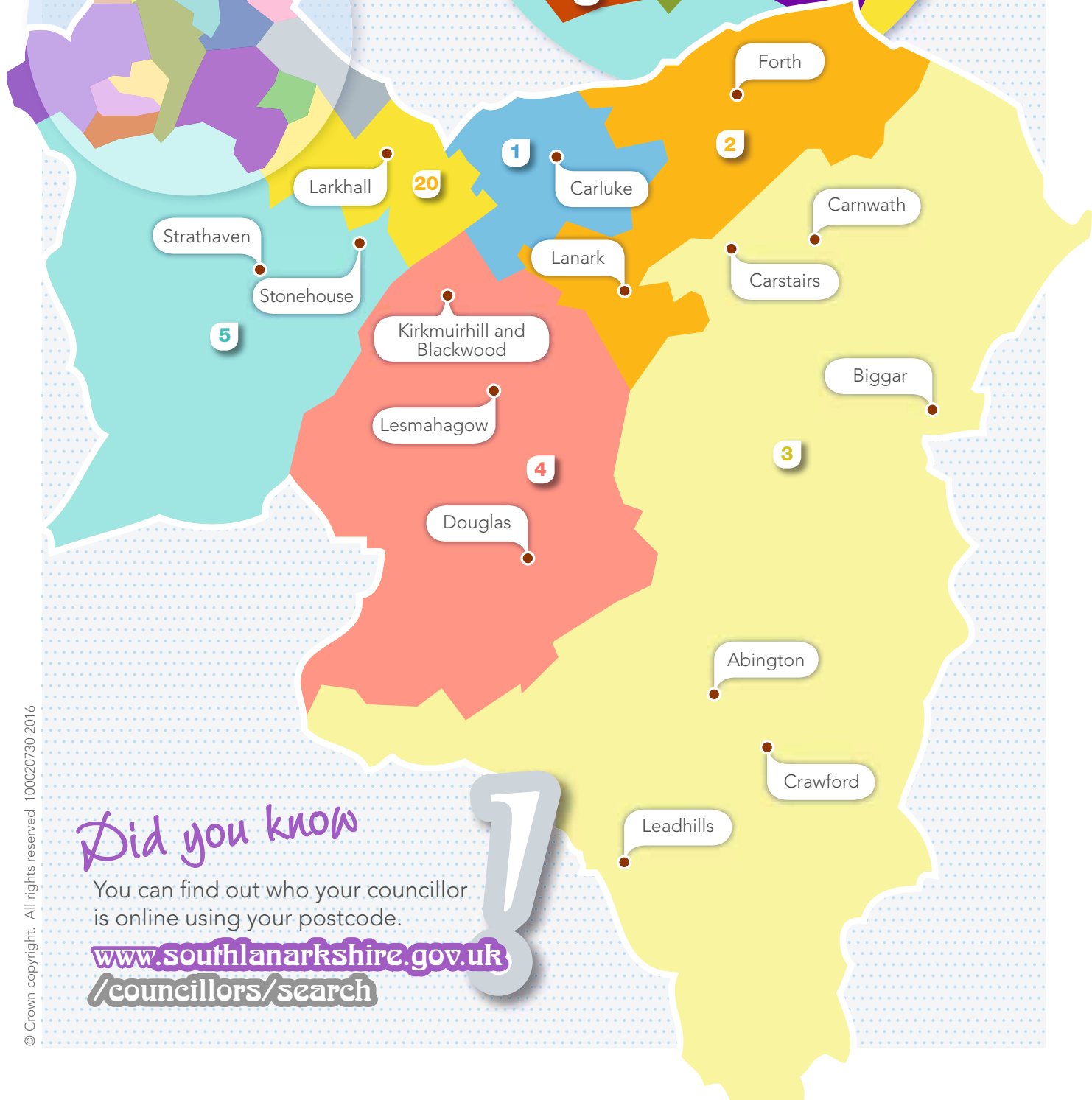
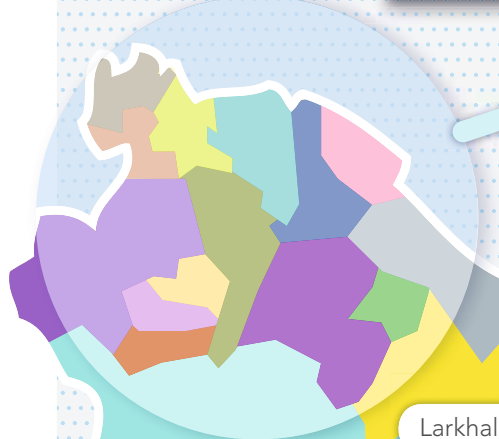
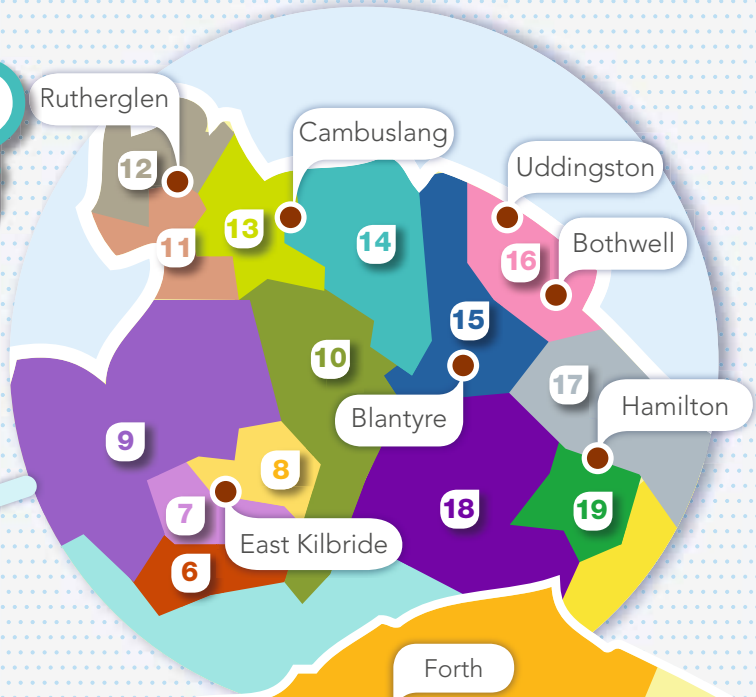


## What is my area/ward called?



- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Clydesdale West             | 11 Rutherglen South             |
| 2 Clydesdale North            | 12 Rutherglen Central and North |
| 3 Clydesdale East             | 13 Cambuslang West              |
| 4 Clydesdale South            | 14 Cambuslang East              |
| 5 Avondale and Stonehouse     | 15 Blantyre                     |
| 6 East Kilbride South         | 16 Bothwell and Uddingston      |
| 7 East Kilbride Central South | 17 Hamilton North and East      |
| 8 East Kilbride Central North | 18 Hamilton West and Earnock    |
| 9 East Kilbride West          | 19 Hamilton South               |
| 10 East Kilbride East         | 20 Larkhall                     |

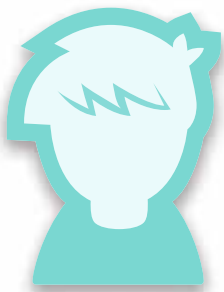
What election area do I live in?



Did you know

You can find out who your councillor is online using your postcode.

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



## How do I contact my councillor?



For general enquiries  
phone Members Services on 01698 454366

### Key to political party

- Independent
- Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Scottish Labour Party
- Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Scottish National Party
- Solidarity SSM

### 1 Clydesdale West

#### Lynsey Hamilton

##### 1st Wednesday

5.30pm to 6.00pm  
Braidwood Village Hall,  
Braidwood Road,  
Braidwood

6.15pm to 6.45pm  
Crossford Village Hall,  
Lanark Road, Crossford

##### 3rd Wednesday

5.30pm to 6.00pm  
Lifestyles Hall,  
Carnwath Road, Carluke  
6.15pm to 6.45pm  
The Tom Craig Centre,  
Lawhill Road, Law



#### Pat Lee

To arrange an  
appointment phone  
07881 310 569 or  
01698 454415  
or email [pat.lee@  
southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:pat.lee@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



#### Eileen Logan

##### Every Monday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Lifestyles Hall,  
Carnwath Road,  
Carluke



##### 1st Wednesday

5.30pm to 6.30pm  
The Tom Craig Centre,  
Lawhill Road, Law

##### 2nd Wednesday

5.30pm to 6.30pm  
Braidwood Village Hall,  
Braidwood Road, Braidwood

##### 3rd Wednesday

5.30pm to 6.30pm  
Crossford Village Hall,  
Lanark Road, Crossford



#### David Shearer

##### 1st and 3rd Monday

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
The Tom Craig Centre,  
Lawhill Road, Law

##### 2nd Monday

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Carluke Lifestyles Centre,  
Carnwath Road, Carluke

##### 3rd Monday

7.15pm to 7.45pm  
Kilncadzow Village Hall,  
Craighenhill Road, Kilncadzow

##### 4th Monday

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Braidwood Village Hall,  
Braidwood Road, Braidwood  
7.15pm to 7.45pm  
Crossford Village Hall,  
Lanark Road, Crossford

### 2 Clydesdale North

#### Ed Archer

##### 1st Tuesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Smyllum Resource  
Centre, Smyllum  
Road, Lanark

##### 2nd Wednesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Forth Primary School,  
Main Street, Forth

##### 4th Tuesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Harry Smith Centre,  
Thomas Taylor Avenue, Lanark

##### 4th Wednesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Kirkfieldbank Primary School,  
Riverside Road, Kirkfieldbank



#### Catherine McClymont

##### 1st Wednesday

From 6.00pm  
McClymont House,  
Gallowhill Road, Lanark

##### 2nd Wednesday

From 5.45pm  
Smyllum Resource Centre,  
Smyllum Road, Lanark  
From 7.15pm  
Kirkfieldbank Primary School,  
Riverside Road, Kirkfieldbank

##### 3rd Wednesday

From 6.30pm  
Braehead Hall,  
Carnwath Road, Braehead  
From 7.00pm  
Forth Primary School,  
Main Street, Forth



#### Vivienne Shaw

##### 2nd Monday

3.30pm to 4.00pm  
Smyllum Resource  
Centre, Smyllum  
Road, Lanark  
4.30pm to 5.15pm  
Kirkfieldbank Primary School,  
Riverside Road, Kirkfieldbank  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Harry Smith Complex,  
Thomas Taylor Avenue, Lanark



##### 2nd Tuesday

7.30pm to 8.00pm  
Auchengray Church Hall,  
Auchengray

##### 2nd Wednesday

6.00pm to 6.30pm  
Tarbrax Village Hall,  
Crosswood Terrace, Tarbrax  
6.45pm to 7.15pm  
Braehead Hall, Carnwath  
Road, Braehead  
7.30pm to 8.30pm  
Forth Sports and Community  
Centre, Main Street, Forth

### 3 Clydesdale East

#### Ralph Barker

##### 1st Monday

7.00 to 7.30pm  
Abington Hall,  
Carlisle Road,  
Abington

##### 1st Tuesday

7.00 to 7.30pm  
Biggar Municipal Hall, Biggar

##### 1st Wednesday

7.00pm to 7.30pm  
Carstairs Junction Hall,  
St Charles' Avenue,  
Carstairs Junction



#### Bev Gauld

Newbigging Village  
Hall, Dunsyre Road,  
Newbigging  
by appointment only  
Please call 07748 114 574.



##### 1st Tuesday

6.00pm to 6.30pm  
Carmichael Village Hall,  
School Road, Carmichael  
6.45pm to 7.15pm  
Thankerton Village Hall,  
51 Station Road, Thankerton  
7.30pm to 8.00pm  
Symington Village Hall,  
Main Street, Symington  
8.15pm to 8.45pm  
Coulter Village Hall,  
Birthwood Road, Coulter

##### 1st Thursday

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Abington Village Hall,  
Carlisle Road, Abington  
7.15pm to 7.45pm  
Crawford Village Hall,  
Carlisle Road, Crawford  
8.15pm to 8.45pm  
Leadhills Village Hall,  
Ramsay Road, Leadhills  
From 9.00pm  
Crawfordjohn Village Hall,  
Crawfordjohn, Biggar

##### 2nd Thursday

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Carstairs Junction Hall,  
St Charles' Avenue,  
Carstairs Junction  
7.15pm to 7.45pm  
Pettinain Village Hall,  
Village Square, Pettinain  
8.00pm to 8.30pm  
Quothquan Village Hall,  
Quothquan  
8.45pm to 9.15pm  
Carnwath Town Hall,  
Main Street, Carnwath  
**3rd Thursday**  
7.15pm to 8.15pm  
Carnwath Town Hall,  
Main Street, Carnwath

8.30pm to 9.00pm  
Carstairs Community Centre,  
School Road, Carstairs

##### 4th Thursday

6.30pm to 7.30pm  
Biggar Municipal Hall,  
Kirkstyle, Biggar  
7.45pm to 8.15pm  
Elsrickle Village Hall,  
Carnwath Road, Elsrickle  
8.30pm to 9.00pm  
Dolphinton Village Hall,  
Dolphinton

#### Hamish Stewart

To arrange an  
appointment, phone  
07748 114 582 or  
01698 454686  
or email  
[hamish.stewart@  
southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:hamish.stewart@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



### 4 Clydesdale South

#### George Greenshields

##### 1st Saturday

10.30am to 11.30am  
St Bride Centre,  
Braehead, Douglas

##### 1st Monday

6.00pm to 6.45pm  
Rigside Hall,  
Muirfoot Road, Rigside  
7.00pm to 8.00pm  
Coalburn One Stop Shop,  
Coalburn Road, Coalburn



#### Alex McInnes

##### 1st Monday

5.00pm to 5.45pm  
Thornton Road  
Community Centre,  
34 Thornton Road,  
Kirkmuirhill  
6.00pm to 6.45pm  
The Fountain, Abbeygreen,  
Lesmahagow



##### 3rd Monday

From 7.00pm  
Woodpark Primary School,  
Priory Road, Lesmahagow

#### Gordon Muir

##### 1st Monday

5.00pm to 5.45pm  
Thornton Road  
Community Centre,  
34 Thornton Road,  
Kirkmuirhill  
6.00pm to 6.45pm  
The Fountain, Abbeygreen,  
Lesmahagow



##### 3rd Monday

From 7.00pm  
Woodpark Primary School,  
Priory Road, Lesmahagow



## 5 Avondale and Stonehouse

### Graeme Campbell

To arrange an appointment phone 07825 583 905 or email [graeme.campbell@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.campbell@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



### Margaret Cooper

To arrange an appointment phone 07881 310 575 or 01698 454946 or email [margaret.cooper@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.cooper@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



### Isobel Dorman

**1st Monday**  
6.00pm to 6.30pm  
McLean Gardens Sheltered Housing, McLean Gardens, Stonehouse  
6.45pm to 7.30pm  
Ballgreen Hall, Glasgow Road, Strathaven  
**3rd Monday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
South Lanarkshire Lifestyles Stonehouse, Udston Mill Road, Stonehouse



### Bill Holman

**1st Thursday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
South Lanarkshire Lifestyles Stonehouse, Udston Mill Road, Stonehouse  
**3rd Thursday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Ballgreen Hall, Glasgow Road, Strathaven



## 6 East Kilbride South

### Archie Buchanan

**2nd and 4th Monday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Greenhills Community Hall, Greenhills Square, East Kilbride



### 3rd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Greenhills Community Hall, Greenhills Square, East Kilbride

### 4th Tuesday

10.30am to 11.30am  
Greenhills Parish Church, Greenhills, East Kilbride

### Jim Docherty

**1st Saturday**  
From 10am  
The Murray Owen Centre, Liddel Grove, Murray, East Kilbride



### 2nd Saturday

From 10.00am  
Ally McCoist Centre, Quarry Road, East Kilbride

### 3rd Saturday

From 10.00am  
Castlefield Primary School, 25 Liprivic Road, Greenhills, East Kilbride

## 4th Saturday

From 10.00am  
Greenhills Primary School, Cedar Drive, Greenhills, East Kilbride

### Douglas Edwards

**1st Thursday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Murray Owen Centre, Liddel Grove, Murray, East Kilbride



### 3rd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Greenhills Community Hall, Greenhills Square, East Kilbride

### 4th Thursday

7.00pm to 8.00pm  
Ally McCoist Centre, Quarry Road, East Kilbride

## 7 East Kilbride Central South

### John Anderson

**1st Thursday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Murray Owen Centre, Liddel Grove, Murray, East Kilbride



### 3rd Thursday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Westwood Community Hall, Riverton Drive, Westwood, East Kilbride

### Gerry Convery

**1st Friday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Murray Owen Centre, Liddel Grove, Murray, East Kilbride



### 2nd Friday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Red Deer Centre, Alberta Avenue, Westwood, East Kilbride

### 3rd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Westwood Hall, Riverton Drive, Westwood, East Kilbride

### 4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
East Milton Primary School, Vancouver Drive, East Kilbride

### Susan Kerr

**1st Friday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Murray Owen Centre, Liddel Grove, Murray, East Kilbride



### 2nd Friday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Red Deer Centre, Alberta Avenue, Westwood, East Kilbride

### 3rd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Westwood Hall, Riverton Drive, Westwood, East Kilbride

### 4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
East Milton Primary School, Vancouver Drive, East Kilbride

## 8 East Kilbride Central North

### Anne Maggs

**1st Saturday**  
10.00am to 11.00am  
Kirktonholme Hall, Kirktonholme Road, West Mains, East Kilbride



### 2nd Wednesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
East Kilbride Arts Centre, Old Coach Road, East Mains, East Kilbride

### 4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Blacklaw Community Wing, Blacklaw Primary School, Glen Arroch, East Kilbride

### Alice Marie Mitchell

**1st Saturday**  
From 10.00am  
East Kilbride Arts Centre, Old Coach Road, East Mains, East Kilbride



### 3rd Tuesday

From 6.00pm  
Kirktonholme Hall, Kirktonholme Road, West Mains, East Kilbride

### Chris Thompson

**2nd Wednesday**  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Maxwellton Primary School, Maxwellton Avenue, Calderwood, East Kilbride



### 4th Monday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Blacklaw Community Wing, Blacklaw Primary School, Glen Arroch, East Kilbride

### Sheena Wardhaugh

**1st Saturday**  
10.00am to 11.00am  
Kirktonholme Hall, Kirktonholme Road, West Mains, East Kilbride



### 2nd Wednesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
East Kilbride Arts Centre, Old Coach Road, East Mains, East Kilbride

## 9 East Kilbride West

### Janice McGinlay

To arrange an appointment phone 07881 310 577 or 01698 454325 or email [janice.mcginlay@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:janice.mcginlay@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



### Graham Simpson

To arrange an appointment phone 07825 583 924 or 01698 454422 or email [graham.simpson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:graham.simpson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



### David Watson

**2nd Friday**  
5.30pm to 6.30pm  
Stewartfield Community Sports Centre, MacNeish Way, East Kilbride



### 3rd Monday

6.30pm to 7.15pm  
Mossneuk Parish Church, Eden Drive, East Kilbride

### 3rd Friday

5.30pm to 6.15pm  
Thorntonhall Tennis Club, Braehead Road, Thorntonhall

## 10 East Kilbride East

### John Cairney

**1st Saturday**  
10.00am to 11.00am  
Claremont Parish Church Hall, High Common Road, St Leonards, East Kilbride



### 2nd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Long Calderwood Primary School, Bosworth Road, Calderwood, East Kilbride

### 4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Hunter House, Calderwood Baptist Church, Maxwellton Road, East Kilbride

### Gladys Miller

**1st Saturday**  
10.00am to 11.00am  
Long Calderwood Primary School, Bosworth Road, Calderwood, East Kilbride



### 2nd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Blacklaw Primary, Glen Arroch, East Kilbride

### 4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Calderwood Hall, Blackbraes Road, Calderwood, East Kilbride

### Jim Wardhaugh

**2nd Saturday**  
10.00am to 11.00am  
Blacklaw Primary, Glen Arroch, East Kilbride



### 4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Calderwood Hall, Blackbraes Road, Calderwood, East Kilbride

remember  
no surgeries are held on public  
and school holidays





## 11 Rutherglen South

### Robert Brown

#### 1st Wednesday

From 6.00pm  
Fernhill Community Centre, Auchenlarie Drive, Fernhill

#### 2nd Wednesday

From 6.00pm  
Calderwood Primary School, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen

#### 3rd Wednesday

From 6.00pm  
Spittal Community Hall, Carrick Road, Rutherglen

#### 4th Wednesday

From 6.00pm  
Loch Primary School, Lochaber Drive, Springhall, Rutherglen

#### From 6.45pm

Committee Room 3, Cathkin Community Wing, Cathkin Primary School, Burnside Road, Rutherglen

### Gerard Killen

#### 2nd Tuesday

5.30pm to 6.15pm  
Fernhill Community Centre, Auchenlarie Drive, Fernhill

#### 6.15pm to 6.45pm

Spittal Community Centre, Carrick Road, Spittal

#### 4th Tuesday

5.30pm to 6.00pm  
Cathkin Primary School, Burnside Road, Rutherglen  
6.00pm to 6.30pm  
Loch Primary School, Lochaber Drive, Springhall, Rutherglen  
6.45pm to 7.15pm  
Calderwood Primary School, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen

### Brian McKenna

#### 1st Wednesday

6.00pm to 6.45pm  
Spittal Primary School, Lochlea Road, Spittal

#### 2nd Wednesday

6.00pm to 6.45pm  
Fernhill and Cathkin Parish Church, Neilvaig Drive, Rutherglen

#### 3rd Wednesday

5.30pm to 6.15pm  
Calderwood Primary School, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen

## 12 Rutherglen Central and North

### Gordon Clark

2nd Monday  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Quigley's Hall, Landemer Drive, Rutherglen

#### 3rd Monday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Royal Burgh House, King Street, Rutherglen



### Edward McAvoy

#### 1st Monday

From 6.30pm  
Quigleys Hall, Landemer Drive, Rutherglen

#### 3rd Monday

From 6.30pm  
Bankhead Primary School, Bankhead Road, Rutherglen

### Denis McKenna

#### 2nd Wednesday

From 6.00pm  
Burnhill Sports Centre, Toryglen Road, Rutherglen

#### 4th Wednesday

From 6.00pm  
Royal Burgh House, King Street, Rutherglen

## 13 Cambuslang West

### Russell Clearie

#### 1st Monday

5.00pm to 6.00pm  
C-TEC, 1-15 Main Street, Cambuslang  
6.15pm to 7.15pm  
Eastfield Community Centre, Dukes Road, Cambuslang

#### 3rd Tuesday

5.00pm to 6.00pm  
Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre, Belmont Road, Cambuslang  
6.15pm to 7.15pm  
Burnside and Blairbeth Church, Church Avenue, Rutherglen

### Clare McColl

#### 2nd Wednesday

5.00pm to 5.45pm  
Cambuslang Institute, Greenlees Road, Cambuslang  
6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre, Belmont Road, Cambuslang

#### 4th Monday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Eastfield Community Centre, Dukes Road, Cambuslang

### Richard Tullett

#### 2nd Monday

5.30pm to 6.15pm  
Cambuslang Institute, Greenlees Road, Cambuslang  
6.30pm to 7.30pm  
Eastfield Community Centre, Dukes Road, Cambuslang

#### 4th Monday

5.30pm to 6.15pm  
Loch Primary School, Lochaber Drive, Springhall, Rutherglen  
6.30pm to 7.30pm  
Whitlawburn Community Resource Centre, Belmont Road, Cambuslang

## 14 Cambuslang East

### Walter Brogan

#### 1st Tuesday

5.00pm to 5.30pm  
Flemington/Hallside Church of Scotland, Hutchison Place, Cambuslang  
5.45pm to 6.15pm  
North Halfway Hall, Graham Avenue, Halfway



6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Westburn Community Hall, Northbank Avenue, Westburn, Cambuslang

#### 1st Wednesday

5.00pm to 6.00pm  
Particip8 Hub, 234-236 Hamilton Road, Halfway, Cambuslang

### Pam Clearie

To arrange an appointment phone 07748 114 559 or 01698 454942 or email [pam.clearie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:pam.clearie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

### Christine Deanie

#### 1st Thursday

5.30pm to 6.00pm  
Cairns Primary School, Ivybank Avenue, Halfway, Cambuslang

#### 4th Thursday

5.30pm to 6.00pm  
Hallside Primary School, Newton Station Road, Halfway, Cambuslang  
6.15pm to 6.45pm  
Halfway Library, 211 Hamilton Road, Cambuslang

## 15 Blantyre

### Hugh Dunsmuir

#### 1st Saturday

From 10.00am  
TACT Community Hall, Hillview Drive, Blantyre  
3rd Saturday  
From 10.00am  
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall, Stonefield Road, Blantyre

### Mo Razaq

#### 1st Tuesday

From 5.00pm  
Priestfield Hall, Main Street, Blantyre

#### 1st Saturday

From 10.00am  
TACT Community Hall, Hillview Drive, Blantyre  
3rd Saturday  
From 10.00am  
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall, Stonefield Road, Blantyre

### John McNamee

#### 1st Saturday

From 10.00am  
TACT Community Hall, Hillview Drive, Blantyre

#### 3rd Saturday

From 10.00am  
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall, Stonefield Road, Blantyre

### Bert Thomson

#### 1st Tuesday

From 5.00pm  
Priestfield Hall, Main Street, Blantyre

#### 1st Saturday

From 10.00am  
TACT Community Hall, Hillview Drive, Blantyre

#### 3rd Saturday

From 10.00am  
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall, Stonefield Road, Blantyre



## 16 Bothwell and Uddingston

### Maureen Devlin

#### 1st Tuesday

From 6.00pm  
St Brides Primary School, Ailsa Road, Bothwell

#### 3rd Tuesday

From 6.00pm  
Uddingston Library, Bellshill Road, Uddingston

### Anne Kegg

To arrange an appointment phone 07881 310 565 or 01698 454424

or email [anne.kegg@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:anne.kegg@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

### Jim McGuigan

#### 1st Monday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Uddingston Grammar, Station Road, Uddingston

#### 1st and 3rd Tuesday

12.00pm to 12.30pm  
David Milne Centre, Old Mill Road, Uddingston

#### 2nd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Bothwell Library, Main Street, Bothwell

#### 3rd Monday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Bothwell Senior Citizens' Centre, Fallside Road, Bothwell

#### 4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am  
Uddingston Community Centre, Bellshill Road, Uddingston

## 17 Hamilton North and East

### Stephanie Callaghan

#### 1st Tuesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
The Town House, Cadzow Street, Hamilton

7.15pm to 8.00pm  
Glenlee Primary School, Anderson Street, Hamilton

#### 2nd Tuesday

6.00pm to 6.45pm  
Ferniegair Hall, Carlisle Road, Ferniegair  
7.00pm to 8.00pm  
Whitehill Neighbourhood Centre, Hunter Road, Whitehill, Hamilton

### Monica Lennon

#### 2nd Monday

6.00pm to 6.30pm  
Ferniegair Hall, Carlisle Road, Ferniegair  
From 6.45pm  
St John's Primary School, Dixon Street, Hamilton

#### 4th Monday

6.00pm to 6.45pm  
Whitehill Neighbourhood Centre, Hunter Road, Whitehill, Hamilton  
From 7.00pm  
Glenlee Primary School, Anderson Street, Hamilton



**Davie McLachlan****1st Monday**

6.00pm to 6.45pm  
Whitehill  
Neighbourhood  
Centre, Hunter Road,  
Whitehill, Hamilton  
From 7.00pm  
Glenlee Primary School,  
Anderson Street, Hamilton

**3rd Monday**

6.00pm to 6.30pm  
St John's Primary School,  
Dixon Street, Hamilton  
From 6.45pm  
Ferniegair Hall, Carlisle Road,  
Ferniegair  
If you require assistance,  
please contact 07748 114 596

**19 Hamilton South****John Ross****1st Tuesday**

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
South Lanarkshire  
Lifestyles Fairhill,  
Neilsland Road, Hamilton

**1st Saturday**

10.00am to 11.00am  
Chatelherault Primary School,  
Silvertonhill Avenue, Hamilton

**2nd Tuesday**

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
St Elizabeth's Primary School,  
William Drive, Eddlewood,  
Hamilton

**3rd Tuesday**

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Woodhead Primary School,  
Woodhead Crescent, Hamilton

**4th Tuesday**

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Our Lady and St Anne's Primary  
School, Hall Street, Hamilton

**Stuart Gallacher****1st Thursday**

From 6.00pm  
Chatelherault  
Primary School,  
Silvertonhill Avenue, Hamilton

**2nd Thursday**

From 6.00pm  
St Elizabeth's Primary School  
Community Wing, William  
Drive, Eddlewood, Hamilton

**3rd Thursday**

From 6.00pm  
Woodhead Primary School,  
Woodhead Crescent, Hamilton

**Joe Lowe**

To arrange an  
appointment phone  
07748 114 581 or  
01698 454133  
or email [joe.lowe@  
southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:joe.lowe@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**Brian McCaig****1st Thursday**

From 6.00pm  
Chatelherault Primary  
School, Silvertonhill  
Avenue, Hamilton

**2nd Thursday**

From 6.00pm  
St Elizabeth's Primary School  
Community Wing, William  
Drive, Eddlewood, Hamilton

**3rd Thursday**

From 6.00pm  
Woodhead Primary School,  
Woodhead Crescent, Hamilton

**20 Larkhall****Jackie Burns****1st Tuesday**

5.30pm to 6.15pm  
Craigbank Primary  
School, Glengonnar  
Street, Strutherhill, Larkhall

**6.30pm to 7.15pm**

Hareleeshill Primary School,  
Myrtle Lane, Larkhall

**2nd Saturday**

10.00am to 10.45am  
Cameronian Hall,  
Victoria Street, Larkhall

**11.15am to 12.00pm**

Quarter Primary School,  
Limekilnburn Road, Quarter

**3rd Tuesday**

5.00pm to 5.45pm  
Netherburn Community Hall,  
Overton Road, Netherburn

**6.00pm to 6.45pm**

Ashgill Community Wing,  
Stewartgill Place, Ashgill

**4th Thursday**

5.00pm to 5.45pm  
Parker Place Sheltered Housing  
Complex, Parker Place, Larkhall

**6.00pm to 6.45pm**

Margaretvale Sheltered  
Housing Complex, Larkhall

**Andy Carmichael****1st Saturday**

10.00am to 10.45am  
Margaret Vale  
Sheltered

Housing Complex,  
Charlotte Path, Larkhall

**11.00am to 12pm**

Hareleeshill Community  
Wing, Hareleeshill Primary  
School, Myrtle Lane, Larkhall

**2nd Saturday**

10.00am to 10.45am  
Netherburn Community Hall,  
Overton Road, Netherburn

**11.00am to 12pm**

Ashgill Community Wing,  
Stewartgill Place, Ashgill

**3rd Saturday**

10.00am to 10.45am  
Machanhill Primary School,  
Machanhill, Larkhall

**4th Saturday**

10.00am to 11.00am  
Parker Place Sheltered Housing  
Complex, Parker Place, Larkhall

**Peter Craig****1st Monday**

6.00pm to 6.30pm  
Machanhill Primary  
School, Machanhill,  
Larkhall

**6.45pm to 7.15pm**

Hareleeshill Primary School,  
Community Wing, Myrtle Lane,  
Larkhall

**2nd Monday**

6.00pm to 6.30pm  
Robert Smillie Memorial  
Primary School, Glen Avenue,  
Larkhall

**6.45pm to 7.15pm**

Craigbank Community Wing,  
Craigbank Primary School,  
Avon Road, Larkhall

**3rd Monday**

6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Quarter Primary School,  
Limekilnburn Road, Quarter

**4th Monday**

6.00pm to 6.30pm  
Netherburn Community Hall,  
Overton Road, Netherburn

**6.45pm to 7.15pm**

Ashgill Community Wing,  
Stewartgill Place, Ashgill

**Lesley McDonald****1st Monday**

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Machanhill  
Primary School,  
Machanhill, Larkhall

**2nd Monday**

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Netherburn Community Hall,  
Overton Road, Netherburn

**7.15pm to 7.45pm**

Dalserf Primary School,  
Douglas Road, Ashgill

**3rd Monday**

6.30pm to 7.00pm  
Craigbank Community Wing,  
Craigbank Primary School,  
Avon Road, Larkhall

**3rd Tuesday**

From 6.30pm  
Orange Halls, 64 Muir Street,  
Larkhall

**4th Tuesday of March, May,****September and November**

From 6.30pm  
Dalserf Parish Church Hall,  
Kirk Road, Dalserf

**18 Hamilton West and Earnock****Allan Falconer****4th Tuesday**

From 6.00pm  
Hillhouse and Earnock  
Community Centre,  
Hillhouse Road, Hamilton

**Graeme Horne****1st Monday**

6.30pm to 7.15pm  
Hillhouse and Earnock  
Community Centre,  
Hillhouse Road, Hamilton

**3rd Monday**

6.30pm to 7.15pm  
Townhill Primary School,  
Melfort Road, Hamilton

**Jean McKeown****2nd Saturday**

10.15am to 11.00am  
Hillhouse and Earnock  
Community Centre,  
Hillhouse Road, Hamilton

**4th Monday**

5.45pm to 6.15pm  
St Peter's Primary School,  
Highstonehall Road,  
Lighthstonehall, Hamilton

**6.30pm to 7.00pm**

Udston Primary School,  
Thornhill Road, Hamilton  
If you require assistance,  
please contact 01698 454552

**John Menzies****1st Monday**

6.30pm to 7.15pm  
Hillhouse and Earnock  
Community Centre,  
Hillhouse Road, Hamilton

**3rd Monday**

6.30pm to 7.15pm  
Townhill Primary School,  
Melfort Road, Hamilton



**Key to political party**

- Independent
- Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Scottish Labour Party
- Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Scottish National Party
- Solidarity SSM

*remember*

**No surgeries  
are held on  
public and  
school holidays**

# Scottish Parliamentary Election takes place on Thursday 5 May 2016

elections



## Your vote counts

On **Thursday 5 May 2016** voters in South Lanarkshire will go to the polls for the Scottish Parliamentary Election. This will be the first time that 16 and 17 year olds have been able to vote in the Scottish Parliamentary Election. Polling stations will be open from 7am – 10pm.

### Make sure you are registered to vote

All you need to do is make sure you are registered to vote. If you returned your completed voter registration form then you should be on the electoral register. If you have moved recently you can now register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

**Deadline:** If you are not registered to vote, you must register by **midnight on Monday 18 April 2016** to vote at this election.

### What's next?

You will receive a poll card telling you where to go to vote, alternatively, if you are on holiday on polling day, or you are working, or prefer not to go to the polling station, do you know you can:

- vote by post
- ask someone to vote on your behalf (ie by appointing a proxy)

### Deadlines:

- **Postal Vote** – if you wish to apply for a postal vote (or make changes to your existing postal or proxy arrangements) you must do this by **5pm on Tuesday 19 April 2016**.
- **Proxy** – If you wish to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf you must do this by **5pm on Tuesday 26 April 2016**.

### Vote using a cross X

Everyone is represented by eight Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs). One represents your Scottish Parliament Constituency and the other seven all represent your Scottish Parliament region.

To vote for your MSPs you will be issued with two ballot papers:

#### 1 Constituency ballot paper (lilac coloured)

Lists the candidates in alphabetical order, together with their party where applicable. To vote simply mark a cross (X) in the box opposite the name of one candidate only. The candidate with the most votes wins.

#### 2 Regional ballot paper (peach coloured)

Lists parties and individual candidates (where appropriate). To vote, mark a cross (X) in the box opposite the name of one party or individual candidate, the parties or individual candidates win seats based on:

- the number of votes they receive in this regional ballot, and
- the number of constituency seats that parties win in the region.

### Interested in standing at the Election?

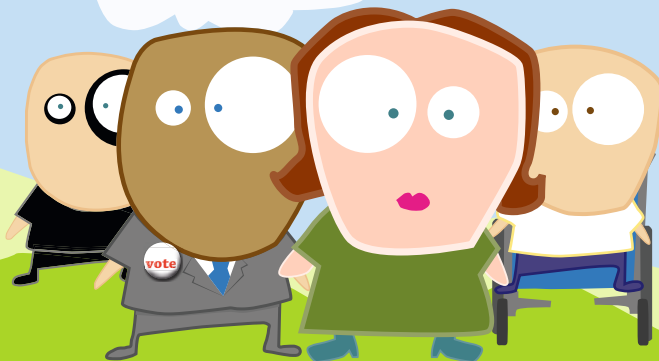
If you wish to stand at this election simply contact the Election Office for your Nomination Pack and more information. The deadline for lodging Nominations is **4pm on Friday 1 April 2016**. You can also download a Nomination Pack from the South Lanarkshire website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

### To register to vote, check the register or arrange a postal or proxy vote contact:

Electoral Registration Office, North Stand,  
Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton ML3 0LU  
**Freephone:** 0800 030 4333  
**Email:** [ero@lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:ero@lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk)  
**Website:** [www.lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk](http://www.lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk)

### For information on voting arrangements or to stand at this election contact:

Election Office, 21 Beckford Street, Hamilton ML3 0BT  
**Phone:** 0303 123 1019  
**Email:** [elections@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)  
**Website:** [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



# Sense of identity

The integration of health and social care is about local teams of professionals working together – alongside partners including unpaid carers, the third sector and independent sector.

The aim is to deliver quality, sustainable care and services.

In line with national legislation, integrated arrangements have to be in place in South Lanarkshire by 1 April 2016.

**Harry Stevenson**, South Lanarkshire Council's Executive Director of Social Work Resources has been appointed as Chief Officer of South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership. Here he talks us through the journey so far and his aspirations for the future.



**S**OUTH Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership's vision is clear: Working together to improve health and wellbeing in the community - with the community.

As well as providing our partnership with an all important sense of identity, who we are and what we stand for, that simple statement has also been our guiding principle as we've been setting down our plans for the future.

Indeed, the partnership between South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire is currently at an exciting stage of our integration journey as we finalise our Strategic Commissioning Plan.

In essence, our plan sets out how health and social care services will be delivered in local areas to address local priorities.

So, how have these priorities been identified?

We've used various methods. A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has analysed, for example, the health and care needs of our population in fine detail.

The national health and wellbeing outcomes are an all important guide too.

Crucially, though, these priorities have also been established by good, old-fashioned talking and listening to people throughout the area.

In South Lanarkshire we have strong and well-defined communities; members of the public, health and social care staff, third and private sector organisations, carers, stakeholders and others who respect and value their local areas.

True to our vision, we have listened and used that local knowledge and expertise to shape our plan to ensure services are responsive to community needs and continue to harness resources that exist in towns and villages across the area.

This engagement process has taken various forms including a host of locality events and planning groups with broad representation from our partnership.



**HEALTH PARTNERS:** Frontline health and social care staff recently came together to participate in a 'walk in my shoes' skill sharing summit in South Lanarkshire as integration goes live. Pictured are district nurse Natalie McCormick, of NHS Lanarkshire with Ann Richford, a South Lanarkshire Council home care worker.

Beyond that, I've been making various personal visits to many of the services in our partnership, from care homes, hospitals and health centres. On my travels, I've been talking to a range of people involved in integration: health and social care staff, GPs, service users and patients, carers, stakeholders and partners.

The process has let me sense check what people know (and what they don't know) about the journey we are on.

That's also given me the opportunity to listen to the hopes of people in our four localities.

And there seems to be a unifying theme: staff and partners understand what needs to be done and they are ready for that.

There is an acknowledgment that we can't continue to rely on a reactive, traditional hospital/institutional model. With an ageing population, it's simply not sustainable in the long term.

There's also recognition we have a unique opportunity to rebalance the health and social care system by focusing on developing more preventative, proactive care in our communities ensuring individuals have the information and support to live their lives safely.

Of course, there are many challenges, not least the financial climate we're working in. Even with the extra monies through the integration fund the fact is there's still a big demand on service - and staff are working really hard to meet that.

Crucially, we share a common purpose in our partnership - and that's supporting the best outcomes with people. Our health, social care staff and partners are fully committed to working with people, their carers and families to promote health and well-being, where all aspects of care and support are co-ordinated around the person.

Amid the challenges and climate, those people and their outcomes remain an overriding, unifying priority.

So, as we move from planning, to doing - using the foundations of the exceptional work already established here - we are now set to build locality-based care and support that addresses health inequalities, improves health outcomes and delivers a better experience for all.

Just as our vision has shaped our plans, that very mantra 'Working together to improve health and wellbeing in the community - with the community' will shape our actions; now - and in the future.



BY SARAH BURROWS

**T**HREE joiners, based in Hamilton, are hammering home the equality message in South Lanarkshire.

For colleagues Andrew Clelland, Mark Kennedy and James Maguire are not only skilled tradesmen, all three of them are deaf.

The men work in the joinery team in Hamilton and are each tasked with crafting doors, frames, skirting boards for the council's housing stock and carrying out repairs as required.

Andrew Clelland joined the council more than, 15 years ago as an apprentice and now, aged 31, he is looking to the future. He says: "I have always liked making things and I'm delighted that I am able to do that every day in my work."

Andrew says that as well as his love for the job, it's been the support of his supervisors and his colleagues that have helped him become the excellent carpenter he is today.

He continued: "I have a son, Callum, who is eight years old and is also deaf. I'd like to think that by the time he is ready to go out to work that his disability will not stop him doing what he wants to do.

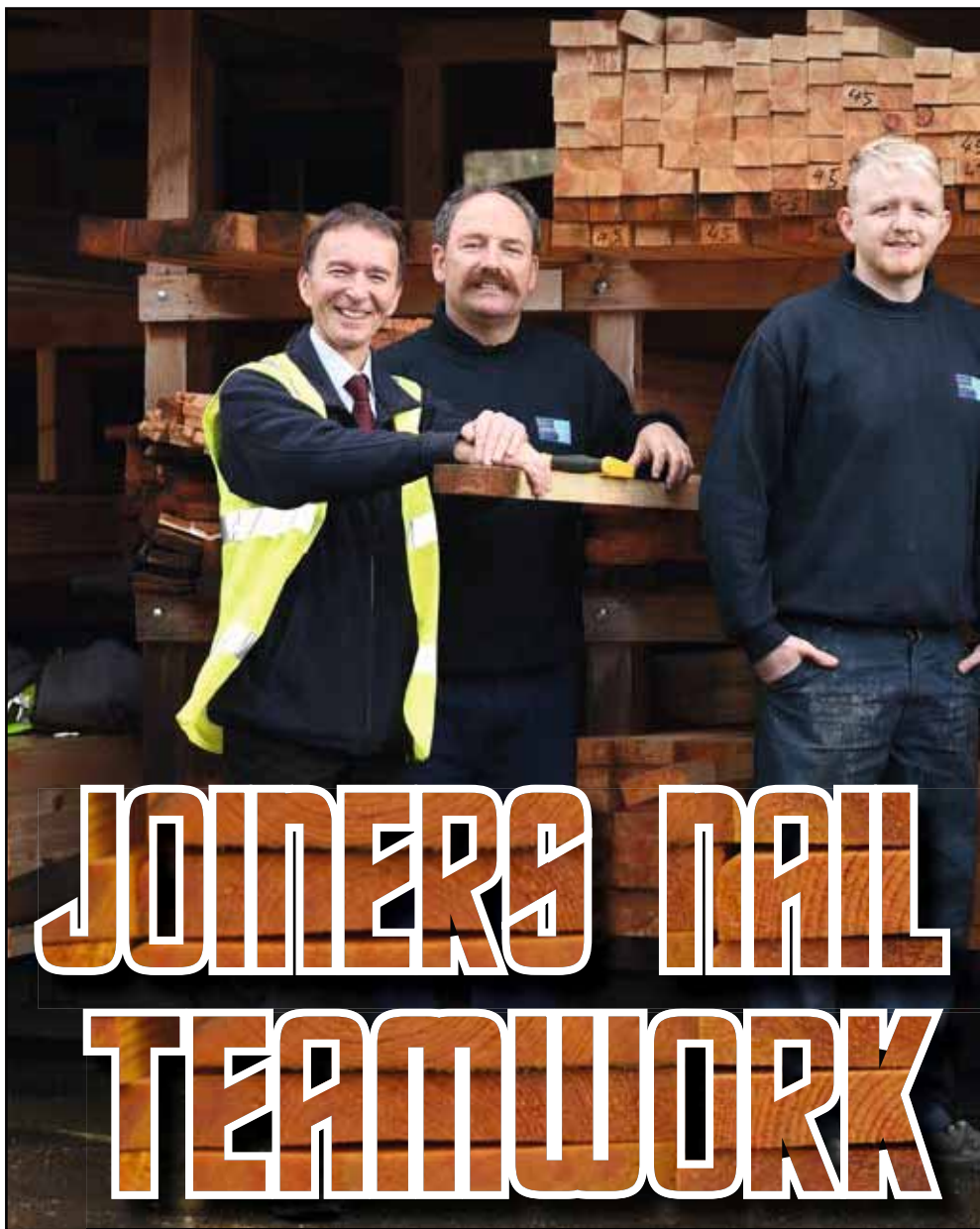
"I feel very proud that I am setting an example to him and to others that disability is not a barrier."

Andrew feels strongly that the very unique set up in his team has led to a happy working life. He commented: "The team are all fantastic and such a support to each other, but what's a real help is that I have colleagues who have the same difficulty as me and if I'm having a bad day, they know exactly how I feel.

"I'm not sure that there will be many other workplaces that three out of a very small team are deaf or hearing impaired and we are a great support to each other."

Mark Kennedy, 34, also joined as an apprentice and has been with the council for 18 years.

He says: "I started off in the workshop, but now I go out and about to do work at empty



# JOINERS NAIL TEAMWORK

**SKILLED:** (left to right) George Lang (supervisor) with joiners James Maguire,

council houses to get them ready for the next tenant. Often I make the items, like doors, in the workshop and take them out and fit them in the house. I also carry out repairs as and when required.

"I really like the fact that my job is so varied and I am treated like every other tradesman. There are no differences made between me and

my hearing colleagues. I get given my works list in the morning and I can manage the workload to suit. If my supervisor needs to contact me they can text me when I'm out and about."

"I enjoy my work and I hope to work towards progressing to supervisor level within a few years."

Mark has a small amount of hearing and had never relied on signing as a means of communication. However, in order that he could get on better with Andrew and his other colleague James, he decided that he would learn. He said: "The unique set up we have has encouraged me to learn new communication skills too, which isn't something I thought I would do. My wife, who is also deaf, is extremely proud of me and I hope that my children Kai and Ava will be as they get older."

George Lang, Mark's supervisor, added: "When Mark started at an apprentice all those years ago we fully expected to teach him all the usual skills he'd need as a joiner but in actual fact he has taught us so much and inspired us to broaden our skillsets and learn British Sign Language.

James Maguire, 57, has worked in the building trade for years and joined the council



**DELIGHTED:** Andrew, James and Mark enjoy the variety of their jobs with the council

## Hamilton Library has now become Dementia friendly

Hamilton Library is now the first South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture facility to become formally dementia friendly, thanks to a partnership between them Alzheimer Scotland and Seniors Together .

The library linked up with the organisations to provide staff with specialist training on how to communicate with customers living with the condition.

Staff took part in a dementia awareness session where they learned about the illness and found out about the best ways to communicate with customers who have dementia.

The team from Seniors Together and Alzheimer Scotland also carried out an environmental audit of the library and staff added stickers and signage. At the end of the training programme, staff were presented with a certificate



to commend them for their hard work on the course.

Staff were given simple tips on how to communicate effectively when dealing with dementia.

The training sessions are very informative with positive feedback provided from staff. Paul Nicoll, Library Assistant at Hamilton, said the sessions were very helpful: " We are a very customer focussed service but the sessions certainly made us more sensitive to individual needs of all our customers and in particular the group concerned."

"Being much more aware of the condition in general has meant we as staff can make the libraries a more stress free and welcoming place to come to".

Gerry Campbell, General Manager of SLLC, added: "I am delighted that Hamilton Library has received this award, it is a tribute to the dedication of staff to providing the best possible service to customers and demonstrates a unique and innovative approach to a real and growing issue in today's society. We welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland and Seniors together and hope to extend this initiative during 2016 to make all of our libraries in South Lanarkshire dementia friendly."

# EXCELLENT APPROACH

Andrew Cleland and Mark Kennedy and Stuart Grant (supervisor)

Picture: Anne-Janine Nugent

three years ago. He is the only joiner of the three who has experience of working outwith the council.

James said: "I've had many different jobs in the building trade and at times I do feel that my disability has stopped me from getting on. However, since joining the council I'm happy that it really doesn't seem to make a difference. I enjoy working with the team and my work is varied from day to day to keep it interesting and challenging for me. I hope to continue to work here until I retire."

Supervisor Stuart Grant is full of praise for the workers. He said: "It's great to have the guys on board. They've been part of the team for years and it's been fantastic to see them grow in confidence in their abilities.

"I've learned so much by having the guys here. We've had to think more about how we communicate with all staff and we've learned sign language to enable us to better speak with the team.

"The signing has become the main way we communicate with each other as a team and I'm looking forward to learning the next level shortly. It's a great skill for me to have and I feel strongly that more people should learn."



**DEDICATED:** Andrew hard at work in the workshop

# GIFTS GIVE ZOO ANIMALS SOCIAL SKILLS

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

**T**HE Children's Zoo at East Kilbride's Calderglen Country Park is one of the most popular visitor attractions in South Lanarkshire.

Given that it is home to more than 50 species of mammal, reptile, insects and fish - including the critically endangered Scottish Wildcat - it's not hard to see its appeal.

Now South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture have launched a new initiative to build on that popularity and give visitors an even more personal stake in the livelihoods of its inhabitants.

A 'wishlist' has been compiled via online retailer Amazon, detailing toys and other 'enrichment' items that can be bought and donated to the zoo.

Ranging from £1 to more than £200 the wishlist contains something for just about every animal. And, as a thank you to the purchaser, the team is using social media to post pictures and videos, where possible, of the recipient with their new gift. And even if the animals are a little more camera shy, anyone who includes their name with the gift, will get a personal thank you online.

So far, according to Animal Keeper and Education Officer, Natalie Martin, the meerkats and monkeys have benefited most from the idea which she came up with after setting up her own birthday list on the website.

She went on: "The zoo has a limited budget which we need to spend on food and shelter. So we had to come up with a way to fund more enrichment items for the animals, things that improve their quality of life.

"I had done a wish list myself on Amazon and noticed that there



were a good few charities and zoos who had set their own up. That got me thinking and, after agreeing it with colleagues we decided to give it a go.

"We've been delighted with the response so far and we have pledge to post pics and videos where we can of the animals playing with the toys so that those who donate can see that we have received them and are making good use of them.

"We are grateful for all and any support we get and the wish list provides another way for us to boost the health and wellbeing of the animals, we are privileged to work with."

Calderglen Children's Zoo also hosts a variety of events

throughout the year to give visitors the chance to get closer to its animals which include meerkats, emperor tamarin monkeys, wallabies, porcupines, guinea pigs, snakes, insects and many species of birds.

These include children's birthday parties, 'zookeeper for the day', 'wild breakfast' and 'meet the meerkats'. For more information on these and the wish list initiative, contact the park on 01355 236644,

Calderglen Country Park is a four-star tourist attraction which as well as the Children's Zoo, has a tropical glasshouse, ornamental gardens, nature trails and walks, courtyard cafe, play areas and an 18 hole golf course.

**"The Zoo has a limited budget which we need to spend on food and shelter. So we had to come up with a way to fund more enrichment items for the animals, things that improve their quality of life."**







**FULFILLING:** Natalie Martin thinks the toys enrich the animals lives (main picture) while student volunteer Kerrie Macaulay (right) loves working at Calderglen

Picture: Anne-Janine Nugent



## ANIMAL MAGIC

Student volunteer Kerrie Macaulay spent many happy childhood days visiting Calderglen Park with her dad and siblings.

And now the 23-year-old is 'loving every minute' of working behind the scenes at the hugely popular children's zoo just 20 minutes from her family home.

Currently in year one of a three-year course in Zoology at Paisley University, the former Calderglen High School pupil dreams of working with elephants one day.

But for now she is helping out the team at Calderglen once a week to build her experience working with more than 50 species from

across the globe.

Said Kerrie, pictured here with porcupines Hawthorn and Blackberry: "I feel very privileged to have been given the chance to work at the park. It's very hands on and gives me such a head start in my course work, and for my future career. It really is the kind of experience that money just can't buy.

"Before this I was working on farms in Devon and moving around without much of a plan. So I decided to get my head in gear, and to come home and knuckle down to my studies. And, having the opportunity to learn my craft in a place I know and love so well is a dream come true."



BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**C**HILDREN in South Lanarkshire, from babies to teenagers, are in need of families who will help them get the best out of life, and the Family Placement Team want to speak to anyone interested in adoption.

The Family Placement Team's recruitment drive is being backed by local people who have already successfully adopted.

"When someone calls you Mummy you've just got to be their mother," said Michelle, a young South Lanarkshire mum.

Michelle and her husband saw adoption as the natural choice when they discovered they could not have children. For them, the process from application to completion took just under a year.

She said: "It was a bit nerve-racking at first, but there was so much done to let us know what to expect and to walk us through the whole



## Could you be the parent a child in South Lanarkshire is looking for?

thing it all seemed to fall into place very naturally.

"The classes we attended helped us understand why children need adoption, issues they face growing up and the situation for children in care. During those classes we saw

our son's profile and we knew he was our perfect match."

Harry Stevenson, the council's Executive Director of Social Work and Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership, added: "Every parent that has adopted a

child or is going through the adoption process should be very proud. It is a remarkable thing to do to give such an opportunity to a young life.

"It is also important that we continue to raise awareness of the need for more families, or prospective families, to come forward and provide a home for a child who can't be with their birth family. We are looking for ordinary families to do something extraordinary."

The council's website – [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) – has a dedicated section on adoption including details on what is adoption, who can adopt, what's involved, assessment, checks, the approval process, support and more information.

■ **If you think you could be part of a child's future, please phone the family placement team on 01698 454895 between 8.45am and 4.45pm, Monday to Friday, or e-mail [familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gov.uk).**

adoption  
in South Lanarkshire

could you be  
my  
future?

South Lanarkshire Council need to recruit adoptive carers for a range of children including sibling groups who need lifelong families.



Social Work Resources

If you are interested in finding out more please contact the **Family Placement Team on 0303 123 1008** or email [familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

## East Kilbride Task Force is committed to bringing new and exciting opportunities



**HUB:** The new leisure development will include a revamped ice rink, new restaurants, a gym and the existing cinema complex

# New ice rink at heart of leisure development in East Kilbride

BY SARAH BURROWS

**W**ORK is now well underway with the new £2.3m state-of-the-art ice rink at East Kilbride.

The new rink will complement a substantial redevelopment within the Olympia Mall at East Kilbride town centre.

A new leisure hub will be created, featuring a variety of family-orientated restaurants, a new commercial gym, the existing cinema complex and the refurbished ice rink.

The East Kilbride Task Force has worked closely with the Town Centre on the plans for the leisure hub.

The Task Force includes representatives from South Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, Business Gateway Lanarkshire Enterprise Services, Skills Development Scotland, Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce, South Lanarkshire College and Orion Capital Managers, on behalf of East Kilbride Town Centre.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Enterprise Services Committee, and chair of the Task



Force, Councillor Chris Thompson, said: "It is excellent news that work is now well underway with this project.

"The ice rink will form a key part of the leisure hub and it is something that as a council we are delighted to be involved in.

"With around 100,000 visitors a year, the ice rink brings people into the town centre and when the works are complete we hope that even more people will come and spend a day enjoying all the facilities on offer.

"This investment safeguards the future of the ice rink and ensures it will be at the heart of this exciting new leisure development.

"It shows that the East Kilbride Task Force is committed to bringing new and exciting opportunities to the town."

Head of Retail, Orion Capital Managers, Richard Low, said: "South Lanarkshire

Council's commitment to a new ice rink is fantastic news for East Kilbride Shopping Centre.

"In addition to a new ice rink the new development will comprise 11 new restaurants and cafes, a gym and an upgrade to the Olympia Mall area.

"The new development has already secured several exciting restaurant brands."

The refurbishment of the ice rink will be managed on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council by South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture (SLLC).

The majority of the costs involved in the refurbishment of the Ice Rink will be met by the council with contributions sought from Renewable Energy Fund and sportscotland.

The refurbishment which will replace the aging plant with a new ammonia plant, air handling and heat recovery systems, a new ice pad, new barriers and redecoration and is expected to be complete in Autumn 2016.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Community Services Committee, said: "This is a major investment project to improve leisure facilities for the people of East Kilbride and surrounding areas which I am sure will be very welcome indeed."

**In addition to a new ice rink the development will comprise 11 restaurants and cafes, a gym and an upgrade to the Olympia Mall area**

# PUPILS EMBRACE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



**LEARNING:** The Confucius Hub allows pupils to learn about Chinese culture. Pictured left to right are: Anthony Duggan (15), Ciaran Reilly (15), Reece Harding (15), Megan Russell (17), Shona Waugh (17), British Council Chinese Language Assistant Jiuling Huang, Adele Martin (16), Caitlyn Morrison (15), Euan Hamill (14), Charliann Gibb (16).

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**T**HERE was no monkeying around as pupils studying Chinese in South Lanarkshire primary and secondary schools gathered in Hamilton at the start of the Chinese Year of the monkey.

The children and young people from five schools and Hamilton's Universal Connections youth centre are learning about Chinese language and culture with the support of South Lanarkshire's Confucius Hub.

Established three years ago, and based in Hamilton Grammar, the hub is the local base for the Confucius Institute of Scotland which is the national centre to promote educational, economic and cultural ties between Scotland and China.

The Chinese New Year began on 8 February and is traditionally marked with the 15-day Spring Festival; the Confucius Hub celebration was held on Thursday 11 February in the Banqueting Hall of South Lanarkshire Council headquarters and was an opportunity for the pupils to demonstrate their language skills and aspects of Chinese culture.

Pupils from St Bride's Primary in Bothwell preformed a selection of Chinese poetry;

Uddingston Grammar showed off their Tai Chi skills; young people from Universal Connections sang a Chinese New Year song; pupils from St Cadoc's Primary in Cambuslang demonstrated their Kung Fu numbers; Hamilton Grammar offered a fan dance and St Hilary's Primary from East Kilbride gave the audience 'Jasmine Flower', a Chinese song and dance routine.

In addition to working with the pupils involved in the New Year event the Confucius Hub has been taking the teaching of the Mandarin language and Chinese culture to an increasing number of South Lanarkshire schools, with a total of 23 primary schools, and four secondaries now involved.

The Confucius Hub has also very good links with the Youth Learning Service via Universal Connections with learning opportunities being provided for 45 young people.

Chair of Education Resources Committee,

**"Remarkably quickly it has developed into an established and popular part of the life of our learning communities."**

Councillor Jean McKeown, said: "Having the Confucius Hub in Hamilton has brought real opportunities for our young people to learn Mandarin and gain a genuine understanding of Chinese culture which they will be able to take with them as they go out into the world.



"I remember attending the official opening of the Hub a little over three years ago and how new, exciting and so very different the first pupils were finding it. But, remarkably quickly it has developed into an established and popular part of the life of our learning communities."

The Hub benefits from the support of two Han Ban Teachers who are volunteer teachers from China. They are trained in teaching Chinese as a foreign language under a programme sponsored by the country's Ministry of Education. The Hub also has a Chinese Language Assistant from China.

Robert Burgess, Youth Learning Services, Confucius Hub Coordinator, said: "Our Spring Festival Chinese New Year celebration was a tremendous success and all the pupils and young people enjoyed being able to demonstrate their skills and learning and also

# CHINESE CULTURE



## East meets West to build learning differences

Three Hamilton Grammar students are to spend a full year studying in China later this year thanks to the Confucius Hub.

Sixth year pupils Nathan Epemolu, Scott Renwick and Tom Moffat (all 17) will be jetting off to China next September after securing places and funding to study in the city of Tianjin.

It is set to be an immersive experience with little or no English to be spoken but the trio are surprisingly undaunted at the prospect of travelling to the other side of the world to live and learn in a country with a culture and language entirely different to what they have grown up with.

Nathan said; "I'm really looking forward to it, it's going to be an amazing opportunity. I did study Mandarin last year but I am a little bit rusty so I will need to practise."

Tom and Scott are both currently learning Mandarin at Hamilton Grammar and Tom has already completed a starter course at Universal Connections.

Scott said: "It's my goal to study theatre and China is really on the cusp of so many major developments in the arts. It would be great to enroll on a Theatre Studies course there so, who knows, perhaps I'll end up staying for more than a year."

Tom added: "China is so important in the world that to spend a year living there and learning the language will be something that will help us all in whatever career path we choose. We've been told we won't hear English spoken after the first few weeks – I read a blog by someone studying there now who said in the first week they were set the task of using public transport to navigate from the city centre to the campus."



the opportunity to enjoy the performances they were not part of.

"The Confucius Hub has had an amazing impact in a short space of time and there is a real passion for taking part being demonstrated by our young people. It has also created amazing opportunities with groups from schools and universities taking the opportunity to travel to China with our partner schools there.

"Fifteen young people and four staff from Universal Connections will be visiting Beijing and Tianjin in April. During the visit they will attend Mandarin classes and participate in a wide variety of cultural activities."

## SALMON TO RETURN TO AVON WATER

MAJESTIC Atlantic salmon could soon be leaping back up the Avon Falls.

The fish became virtually extinct in the Clyde in the 19th century.

Over the last 40 years, improved treatment of domestic and industrial wastes and reductions in industrial discharges have resulted in sufficient improvements in water quality in the lower rivers and upper estuaries of the Clyde to allow salmon to return. But in some rivers including the Avon Water, barriers are preventing them from reaching their spawning grounds.

However this summer, a flagship partnership project between SEPA, Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland (RAFTS), the Clyde and Avon Valley Local Partnership, South Lanarkshire Council, Clyde River Foundation, anglers and local communities will open up 200km of salmon spawning grounds in the Avon Water once again.

Natural rock fish passes will be installed at the Ferniegair and Millheugh weirs (built in



late 19th century to serve local mills) in the summer of 2016, meaning that Atlantic salmon should be leaping the weirs in autumn 2016.

CAVLP Programme Manager Donna Marshall said: "The watercourses of the Clyde and Avon valleys are an important and unique habitat for native wildlife. For this reason, we have always viewed our involvement in this project as a vital part of delivering our overall Heritage Lottery Fund supported Programme."

The fish passes will open up approximately 200km of salmon spawning grounds in the Avon Water and upgrade the Water Framework Directive status of eight rivers in one fell swoop, six of which will achieve high status.

# Welfare Reform in South Lanarkshire

BY ANGELA McMANUS

**T**HE Welfare Reform Act 2012 came into force four years ago, bringing with it a wide range of reforms to the benefits and tax credits system.

Universal Credit (UC) is a big part of the reform and is a new type of benefit designed to support people who are on a low income or out of work. It replaces six existing benefits – Housing Benefit, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit – and is paid directly to the claimant, one month in arrears.

In South Lanarkshire, UC came into operation in October last year, initially only affecting 200 claimants. But over the next couple of years, starting this April, the changes will affect more and more people in receipt of benefit with increasing impacts.

## A partnership approach

South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partners have been working together through the 'Tackling Poverty and Inequality Group' to alleviate

the impact of welfare reform on residents. They've been working together, maximising efforts to raise awareness of the changes and the support available to residents, as well as training staff to help.

Partnership initiatives include an outreach welfare advice service in health facilities for those with long term conditions, food co-ops and food banks set up across South Lanarkshire

for those struggling to make ends meet and community recycling projects where essential household items can be exchanged or swapped. Trained volunteers, working in SELECT hubs are also providing critical support to fellow residents to help them to use the internet for jobsearch purposes; claiming benefits, accessing money saving opportunities etc, while local libraries have continued to provide free access to a PC.

## Supporting Council Tenants

Over the past three years the council has put a great deal of effort into supporting council tenants affected by welfare reform, in particular the under occupancy provisions or "bedroom tax". The Benefits are Changing Team (BACT) was set up in April 2013 to make contact with council

tenants affected. Working with local housing teams, the BACT has been highly successful in helping to ensure that people have accessed the funding available, from the UK and Scottish Governments, to cover the shortfall in housing benefit.

Under UC money to help, rent is paid directly to the tenant, who is then responsible for making their rent payment. Once again the BACT and the local housing teams have been working to support tenants who are claiming UC and make sure tenants are aware of how it works and their responsibility to pay their rent.

Annette Finnan, Head of Area Services in Housing and Technical Resources, said: "We continue to monitor this important and dynamic policy area and to develop our services so that they are best placed to support tenants to claim UC and pay their rent.

"Our Benefits are Changing Team is more than happy to offer advice and assistance to council tenants. The focus of the team is to make sure the Universal Credit claim has been made and the best rent payment method is established. The team are also on hand to assist in accessing other services."

The council's Money Matters Advice Service can also help anyone affected.



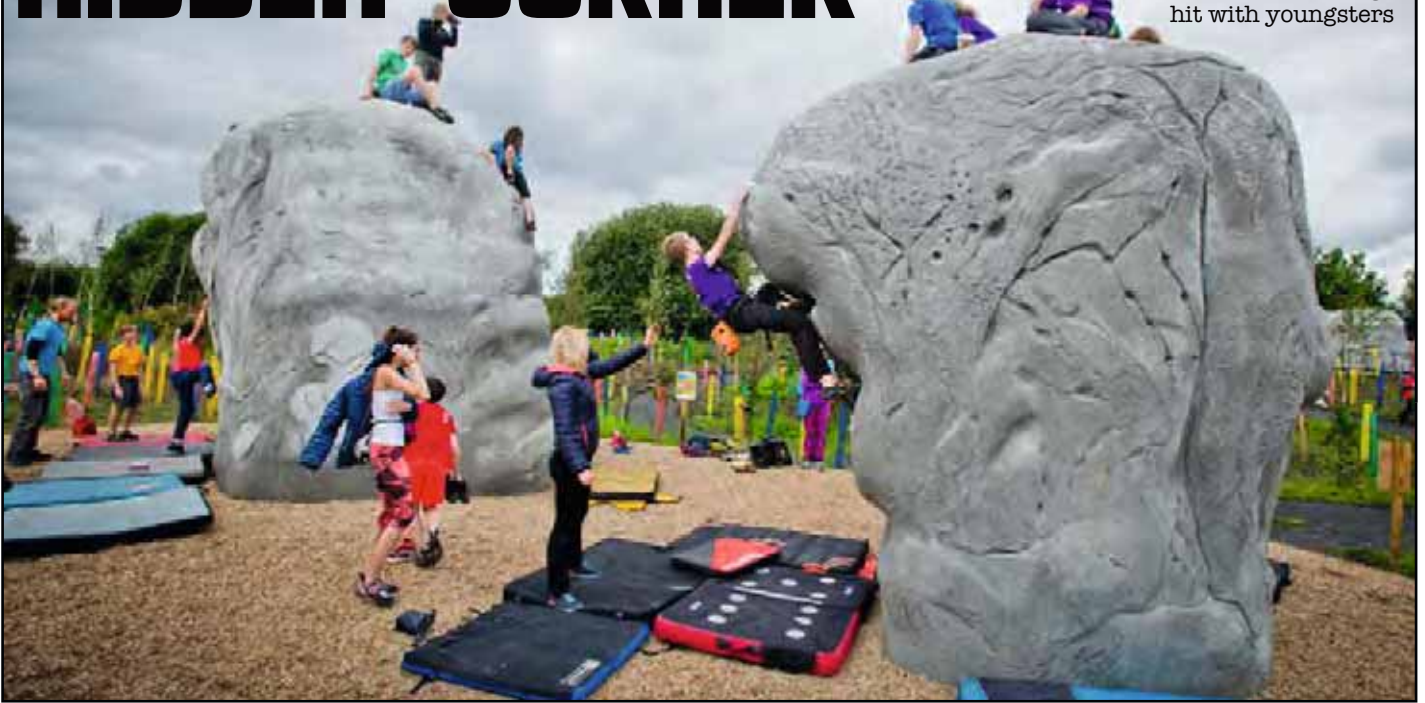
**PROVIDING:** Libraries have continued free access to a PC



■ The council's Benefits are Changing team can be contacted at [benefitsarechanging@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:benefitsarechanging@southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or on 0303 123 1012, while the Money Matters Advice Service is available on 0303 123 1008.

# £5M PARK TRANSFORMS HIDDEN CORNER

**CLIMBING:** Scotland's first ever bouldering park is sure to be a huge hit with youngsters



**A** LITTLE-KNOWN, remote and previously difficult to access corner of Rutherglen is set to become one of Scotland's most popular free visitor attractions.

Cuningar Woodland Park is set to open this spring after being developed for the past two years, thanks to the combined efforts of Clyde Gateway and Forest Enterprise Scotland.

The land at Cuningar, which extended to 30 hectares in size, had last been used as a landfill site for rubble from the demolition

of tenements in the 1970s and to begin the process of creating the new park, the entire site was transferred over to Clyde Gateway by South Lanarkshire Council.

The area has traditionally been known as Cuningar Loop and is situated behind showpeople homes just off Downiebrae Road, but the lack of any pathway or road onto the site made it something of a secret.

More than £5million has now been spent on the creation of Cuningar Woodland Park which takes up half of the site that now sits in the ownership of Clyde Gateway.

More than 15,000 trees have been planted together with an extensive path network, a riverside boardwalk and a large meadow and series of picnic areas. There is also plenty on offer for those who want to be particularly active with an adventure play area, a bike skills track and Scotland's first ever bouldering park.

The park sits in the ward of Council Leader Councillor Eddie McAvoy. He said: "There were 'come and try' weekend events last year which generated a lot of excitement and many of the local youngsters were thrilled to make use of the bike tracks, the adventure play area and the incredibly striking and unique bouldering park. There has been a bit of fine tuning done by Forest Enterprise Scotland over the winter months and everyone is gearing up and looking forward to it full opening seven days a week.

"I'm particularly pleased to see this fantastic level of investment coming into Rutherglen and it perfectly complements what Clyde Gateway is doing elsewhere with the creation of new business and office spaces across the burgh, not forgetting also the work they do with schools and community groups."

Cuningar Woodland Park is currently open to the public every Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 4pm.

■ More information is available at: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/cuningar-loop>

## Derelict site back in use

Clyde Gateway, the council-backed regeneration agency for Rutherglen and Shawfield, has announced details of the first occupier to move into One



Rutherglen Links, the largest new office block constructed in the burgh in more than thirty years.

SPIE, one of the UK's leading providers of vital multi-technical services including construction, maintenance, engineering and repairs, is moving into the top two floors of the four-storey, £5 million building which is located on the site of the former Monogram factory, on Farmeloan Road just 200 yards from Main Street.

Ian Manson, the Chief Executive of Clyde Gateway, said: "SPIE is just one of a number of firms and organisations who are taking advantage of the many things Clyde Gateway has to offer including the quality and location

of business space, the easy access to public transport and motorway links along with the highly competitive rental levels.

"The council has given tremendous support to our efforts to bring this vacant and derelict town centre site back into use as a business park and indeed it was Councillor McAvoy, the Leader of the Council, who performed the topping-out ceremony at One Rutherglen Links back in 2014 when the first phase of its construction was nearing completion."

■ Further information on office building and the remainder of the business park can be found at [www.rutherglenlinks.com](http://www.rutherglenlinks.com)

# SUPERHEROES

## LAND IN SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

**S**OUTH Lanarkshire's first Comic Con proved to be a real draw for fantasy and sci-fi fans from across Scotland with organisers describing it as an overwhelming success.

Hosted by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and the Big Glasgow Comic Page website, the event at Greenhills Library attracted around 40 specialist traders and hundreds of fans, many of whom came dressed as their favourite comic book or film characters. To those in the know this is called Cosplay (a shortened term from "costume play") and enthusiasts lavish hours of work and a huge amount of attention on their outfits to bring to life accurate versions of favourite characters from comics, books, films and video games.

The impressive, and at some scary, results of their labours were on display at Greenhills Library, with assorted stormtroopers from Star Wars, superheroes, aliens and more mingling with more soberly dressed fans and families as they browsed the stalls at the South Lanarkshire Mini Comic Con.

In addition to a huge array of comics, graphic novels, crafts, art, film memorabilia and Funko Pop (bobble headed character figures) available; a series of workshops and classes were running through the day including horror make-up and zombie acting sessions, a Superhero Academy, including make a mask and cape, and a Doctor Who quiz.

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Community Librarian Heather MacLean said: "It was certainly one of the most unusual days we have ever had in one of our libraries and I think it is fair to say that there was some bemusement among our regular users. But the atmosphere was

fantastically friendly and there was a lot of fun to be had.

"Hosting this event has been fantastic and we were really pleased by the attendance, but it was also a great opportunity to promote reading through one of the most exciting and dynamic literary forms of the moment. We ran a free prize draw for anyone joining the library or borrowing books on the day, which was a great success.

"To be honest when the library staff first approached the Big Glasgow Comic website for advice about putting something like this together we had not imagined anything on this scale. Their support has been tremendous and this has definitely been one of our most



**Jennifer Morrow, East Kilbride:** "I have had a great time and would definitely be back if they do it again."



**Emma Addams, 25, East Kilbride as Mikasa Ackerman:** "This is my first Con although I have been wanting to go to one for a while, it has been good and I would definitely come again."



**Owen Fleming, 11, East Kilbride as Doctor Who:** "I like Doctor Who and comics and have had a good time, my mum helped me with my costume and I hope there is another one, I will come again."







## Down in the woods today

He may be the most frightening thing in the forest (apart from Mouse) but there was nothing to fear at East Kilbride Central Library when the Gruffalo came to tea for National Libraries Day and turned out to be a big softie at heart.

First published 17 years ago author Julia Donaldson's *Gruffalo* has been translated into dozens of languages (including Latin) and, is now a well established children's classic with more than 13.5 million copies sold worldwide and with 58 separate editions, a generation of children has grown up with it.

The multi-award winning book has also been adapted into a stage show, a film, has a

sequel *'The Gruffalo's Child'* and more than 30 Gruffalo themed books are available in the UK alone. But on National Libraries Day the focus was firmly on the original as young fans met up in East Kilbride Central Library for a Gruffalo Tea.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, Councillor Hamish Stewart, said: "The Gruffalo undoubtedly deserves to be regarded as a children's classic and I could not think of a better way of encouraging our youngest book

fans to enjoy their local library than an event like the Gruffalo Tea.

"There was a lot of fun to be had with mask making, characters from the story and of course reading.

"I would like to congratulate our libraries team on all the effort they put into the special events for National Libraries Day and throughout the year to encourage people to make the most of their Library and to help get new users to pay a visit."

successful National Library Day events ever."

Ian Bonar, from Big Glasgow Comic Page, said: "We have regular events in Glasgow but this has been our first try at holding an event outside the city centre and it has definitely been well worth it.

"The library team first approached me for some advice and possible contacts but when talking to them I could tell how serious they were about trying to do something special so we decided to take the plunge and offer the full support that we could.

"I have been absolutely blown away by how well the event went. We expected a few hundred people and we got more than three thousand, loads of people in Cosplay and a great family atmosphere."

Ivor Davis, of Glasgow based Ivor's Comics was among the stall holders at the event. He said: "I am a regular at the Big Glasgow events in the city and I have to say this has really exceeded all expectations. It is a huge

credit to all those involved in putting it on and definitely something I would do again."

Mum Angela Lamont was there with her son Owen who took a prize in the under-16 Cosplay. She said: "This has been fantastic. Owen has wanted to attend a Comic Con event for a while but was a little wary of going to one in the city without really knowing what to expect."

Gerry Campbell, General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure, said: "The Greenhills Library team have done a great job in supporting an event that has taken them into new territory and I think it reflects well on how our libraries across South Lanarkshire are willing to move with the times and do strive to cater for all sections of the community.

"This event is a great example of how libraries are working hard to stay relevant and has also been a real opportunity to get people through the doors on National Libraries Day to see just how much is on offer in a modern library."



**James Burns, Kilwinning as Judge Burns:** "This is my fourth event of this kind and this one is a lot busier than I expected but there was a lot of buzz about it in the weeks beforehand and it has a real family feel."

# HUB FOR CARING

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

**A** NEW community hub is improving lives for Lesmahagow's older community.

Glebe Gardens in the heart of the village centre, has been designed to become a focus not only for the tenants of the sheltered housing complex, but also for the provision of services for older people with a variety of needs.

The facility, which opened earlier this year, marks an investment by South Lanarkshire's Housing and Technical Resources, in partnership with Social Work Resources, and is a key part of ongoing health and social care integration under the Community Planning partnership.

The communal building at Glebe Gardens was originally a large meeting hall with ancillary and toilet accommodation. Day care services for older people also operated in the building but restricted space and limited facilities made it more difficult to offer personal care supports.

Now, following extension and redevelopment, it houses a further three bespoke social/living areas, kitchen and bathroom facilities, two laundries and a visiting services personal care suite.

Its light, bright decor is designed to be a 'home away from home' and is fast becoming a central part of the lives of the residents of Glebe Gardens sheltered housing complex, as well as many more from the surrounding area accessing social work day care.

The advantages of such integration of key services are many, as Wilma Overend, Sheltered Housing team leader, explains. "The investment in extending the space here offers so much flexibility both for sheltered housing tenants, and our Social Work colleagues to adapt the accommodation based on need," she said. "There is room for the day care service users and the tenants to spread out, to have their own space or to be together. It can be sociable or private and that is such a bonus.

Adds Eileen Smyth, Daycare Resource Manager: "The refurbished facility will open up



**TIME FOR TEA:** Jean Anderson enjoys a cuppa poured by Sheltered Housing Team Leader Wilma Overend

wider opportunities for older people within this community. It enables them to build on existing friendships, reduce social isolation and receive 'person centred' care aimed at maintaining their independence and wellbeing. With that in mind, we have also established a visiting services room where clients can access personal care such as podiatry or hairdressing.

"This is supported by good partnership working between health, housing and social work colleagues to support older people with complex needs remain longer at home in their local community.

"The environment – specifically designed to be dementia friendly - makes such a difference to our clients and it is so lovely to see them relaxed and at ease."

And for the tenants of Glebe Gardens the new community hub has provided a social lifeline.

Eighty-eight-year-old Betty Hamilton is a tenant of four years standing, having moved from her family home in the village where she brought up her five children.

She said: "I am so happy here as I still get to keep my independence but have the support when I need it. This new facility has made life even better as it's somewhere we can all get together.

"Before this, there were times when it was easier just to stay at home, especially in the winter. When we heard this was being built we were so excited, and it has turned out to be everything we could have hoped for. It's just perfect."

In fact, as Wilma Overend explains, the new lounge and kitchen space has already helped one new tenant maintain a lifelong family tradition.

She added: "One lady moved in towards the end of last year who, when she was in her own home, hosted her family every year at Christmas. But with the reduction in space in



**"I am so happy here as I still get to keep my independence but have the support when I need it."**

her new home, this wasn't possible. So, they used the facility here and the tradition was able to continue. It was lovely to be able to offer that support to the tenant and her family."

Moving forward, the aim now is to widen the use of the facility to include elderly residents of the local area. A regular bingo afternoon is



**INTEGRATED:** New hub at Glebe Gardens

## CALM SURROUNDINGS

The new development at Glebe Gardens is already winning widespread and warm praise.

George (carer) said: "This unit is now first class. It's fresh, comfortable, warm and ideal for my mother who has dementia."

Wilma (daughter of service user): "This new development makes a tremendous difference to both my mum and me. For her, a smaller, fresher and calmer environment, and for me, easier to get to work. Less stress all round!"

Gillian (daughter of service user): "Wow, what a fantastic space! So bright and clean and with dementia-friendly colours. A boutique hotel feel which I am sure the users and staff appreciate. Thanks for the investment as this facility and support is a lifesaver to many with dementia."

### SUPPORT:

Jessie McDade is one of the residents enjoying the new facilities at Glebe Gardens

Picture: Anne-Janine Nugent



already underway, and with two or three local organisations already using it as meeting place, its place at the centre of the community is being cemented.

The model being delivered at Glebe Gardens is similar to the approach already developed at the new Clydeford View (Cambuslang) and Eastcroft Gardens (Rutherglen) Sheltered Housing developments. The services are designed not only to give tenants the best possible quality of housing and facilities, but also to help promote positive engagement of communities, both within the development and in the surrounding areas.



**PERFECT:** Betty Hamilton is delighted with the changes

## REGISTRATION AND LICENSING SERVICES

The registration service is one which everyone will use at some stage, to register a birth, marriage or death. So it is important that people know the best, and easiest, way for them to access it.

In Hamilton, the Licensing and Registration office at The Town House, 102 Cadzow Street, Hamilton ML3 6HH operates both an appointment service and walk in service for Licensing and Registration matters with the exception of taxi and private hire car/driver applications.

In Rutherglen and Cambuslang, the Licensing and Registration office at The Town Hall, 139 Main Street, Rutherglen G73 2JJ offers the same service as the Hamilton office.

Customers should be advised that there may be a wait using the walk in service depending on the volume of customers. To book an appointment please call 0303 123 1015.

### Office hours at both Hamilton and Rutherglen are:

■ Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8.45am to 4.30pm

■ Wednesday 11am to 4.30pm

■ Friday 8.45am to 4pm

■ Saturday 9am to 12.30pm (From 1 November until the end of February each year the office is open from 9am to 3.30pm)

In East Kilbride, the office at the Civic Centre, Cornwall Street, East Kilbride operates an appointment only service for registration matters two days per week. To make an appointment customers should phone 01698 453792.

In Clydesdale, the office at South Vennel, Lanark - operates an appointment only service for registration matters two days per week. To make an appointment customers should phone 01698 453792.

All taxi and private hire car matters are dealt with at the Licensing Office, 4 Livingstone Boulevard, Hamilton International Technology Park, Blantyre G72 0BP.

### Office opening hours for taxi/phc office are:

■ Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 4.30pm

■ Friday 8.45am to 4pm

Licensing customers can also apply online at [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

If customers require a copy of an extract/certificate of a birth, death, marriage or civil partnership that took place in Scotland they can order a copy online from our website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk).

■ In addition there is an appointment only service for registration matters at Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AA. Appointments can be made by phoning 01698 453792. Payments for extracts/certificates is by card payment only.

**CONTACT:** The Q and A Implementation Group meet to discuss the way forward



# Improving contact between customers and council

BY ANGELA McMANUS

**W**ITH the growing popularity of online services across all age groups, it's no surprise that many more people want to contact the council online too.

To ensure that the council keeps up to date with online developments, ways have been identified to make online processes more straightforward, quicker and easier to use.

Numbers using the website have increased over the last year, so to make information clearer and easier to find, hundreds of documents that are no longer relevant for customers have been removed to keep online information up-to-date.

There are plans in place to improve the transfer of information from web forms directly to the relevant service. This will

mean that requests from the web will be dealt with more effectively, saving time and money and improving the service to customers.

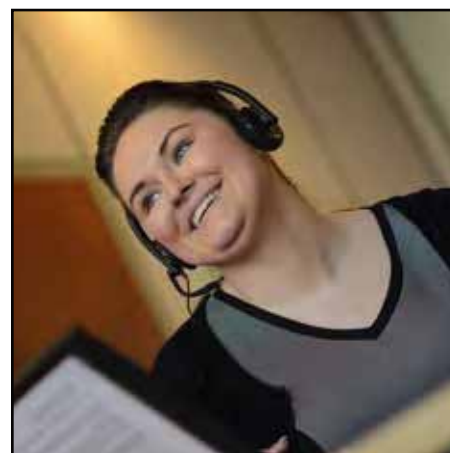
Patrick Murphy, Head of Support Services in Housing and Technical Resources, is leading these changes. Patrick says it's about following the customer's lead in how they prefer to contact the council, making sure their experience is a positive one.

He said: "We're living in a digital age and we have to ensure that our methods of contact keep up with the expansion of new technology and customer preferences. People expect and want to have their business dealt with as simply and as quickly as possible. We need to manage their expectations and respond as best we possibly can - that's what these improvements are all about."

Even with the increase in online enquiries, contacting the council by phone remains popular. Around 1.5 million calls are received each year and they have been analysed to make improvements - again through the use of the latest technology. This will help reduce the number of unanswered calls, and to expand the use of automated phone services.

Added to this, the number of UK households using mobile phones exceeds those with land lines, resulting in a whole new group of customers whose preferences are to access and receive information and services "on the move".

The use of text messaging as part of the drive to improve customer contact is also being explored. Patrick said: "While the council already uses texting, it's fairly limited.



**CALLS:** One of the many and popular ways to get in touch with the council

We're planning to significantly expand its use, introducing a council-wide system that enables us to send both personal messages - reminding people of appointments for house repairs, for example - and bulk messages with more general information such as road closures or promotion of cultural events."

And for those who don't have online access or a phone at home, the Q and A offices located across South Lanarkshire provide both PC kiosks and public access telephones. Blantyre, Carluke and Rutherglen Q and A offices will be moving this summer to be co-located with the local library - remaining in the heart of the community and close to the customer.



**FACE-TO-FACE:** The Q and A service is changing

# HOLY CROSS GIVES GIRLS A SPORTING CHANCE



Abigail  
Shaw



DOING THE DANCE: Rachael Lees, Erin  
Gallagher and Abigail Shaw



ON THE BALL: Adele Baillie, Anna  
Wilson and Anna King

BALLET  
DANCER:  
Erin  
Gallagher

BY SARAH BURROWS

**H**oly Cross High School in Hamilton has taken a unique approach to encourage more girls into sport.

The school's PE department decided the best way to encourage girls to take part in extra-curricular clubs was to use sporting role models from the school that younger girls could aspire to be like. The girls are now the focus of a series of posters which show them participating in their chosen sports.

PE Teacher Marianne Bradley, who led the project within the school, is delighted by the response of the posters. She said: "I decided to use our own girls on the posters so that it would be more relatable for those who were beginning to lose interest in PE and sport.

"Many girls that attend the school and girls from the wider community have commented on the posters and it's been great to see an increase in girls' participation rates in PE and in extra-curricular clubs.

"It's been a great way to highlight the successes of some of our pupils in their own sporting field, and so far the feedback has been very encouraging. Hopefully the new girls we have encouraged will become the sporting stars and poster girls of the future."

Picture: Anne-Janine Nugent

# 'KEEPING'

**Goalie Matt and his EK teammates make a case for the defence against Scottish champions**

**BY ANDY LIVINGSTONE**

**A**S far as football's David against Goliath encounters go, it doesn't get much more classic than this: a Lanarkshire team from the fifth tier of the country's senior football facing up to the Scottish champions.

Formed in only 2010 as an amateur club and achieving senior status as recently as 2013, East Kilbride had played Lothian Thistle in a Scottish Cup replay knowing that the winners had a tie hosting Celtic waiting in the next round.

From the moment the final whistle went in their 2-0 victory in that fourth-round tie, excitement flooded the club and the town as they looked forward to the match with the Glasgow giants.

The wait seemed interminable, but the big day eventually arrived and an incredible 4000 East Kilbride fans took their seats at Airdrie's Excelsior Stadium to watch them match up, 11 v 11, against the multi-million-pound team from Glasgow.

And how they fought! The EK players gave every ounce of effort they had, battling for every ball, throwing themselves in front of shots, maintaining their organisation and being brave enough to play football themselves when in possession.

In the end, Celtic won, but to restrict the Champions to just two goals – with one of them going in off the arm of Celtic striker Leigh Griffiths and the other coming after a lucky break of the ball to Colin Kazim-

**Matt McGinley combines his football with his day job, teaching PE at Calderglen High School**



# SUPERSTARS AT BAY



**WELL-EARNED PLAUDITS:** Matt joins the rest of the team in saluting the huge crowd of East Kilbride fans who supported them at the big game.

Richards – was a feat beyond anything the rest of Scottish football had thought possible.

The whole team contributed to that achievement, but it was goalkeeper Matt McGinley and captain Barry Russell whose performances stood out from even those of the rest of the heroes.

And yet Matt – who pulled off save after stunning save – might never have been a goalkeeper at all if his football career had followed its original path.

The 26-year-old, who teaches PE at East Kilbride’s Calderglen High School, explained: “I actually played in defence, as a right-back or centre-half, until I was 18. It was only when an amateur team I was with found they were short of a goalie one game that I filled in in goals, and I’ve played there ever since.”

Matt played at amateur and junior level

while he was at university and caught the eye of Morton, who signed him on a full-time contract when he was 21. A season there was followed by two years at Albion Rovers before his first teaching job took him to Aberdeen and he signed for Buckie Thistle.

Last summer, he moved to his current post, teaching PE at Calderglen, and he contacted several teams to enquire about a trial with them. East Kilbride took him on at the start of this season and so began the road to the meeting with Celtic – a clash that generated as much anticipation at the school as in the rest of the town, if not more.

“There is a group of up to 50 third- and fourth-year boys who have been coming to the East Kilbride games,” Matt

said. “They bring a drum and add so much enthusiasm to the atmosphere even just normally, so you can imagine the excitement leading up to the Celtic game.

“However, for the players, it was about keeping our feet on the ground and trying to remain focused. We trained as normal in the week leading up to it, and spoke before it about enjoying it and playing to the best of our ability.

“It turned out to be a brilliant experience – the whole team loved every minute of it. We knew that set pieces were always going to be a danger because of their greater physicality, so to limit them to just two set-piece goals shows how well we did.

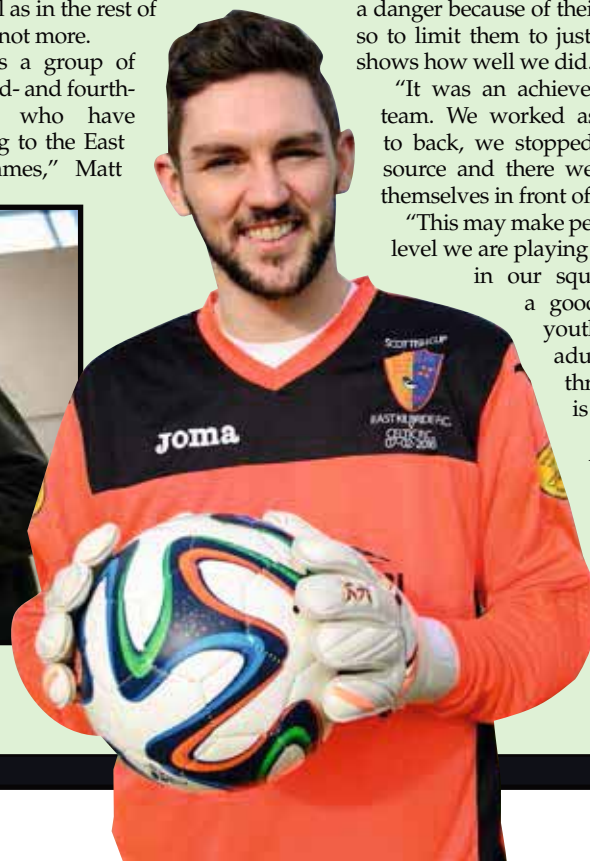
“It was an achievement by the whole team. We worked as a unit from front to back, we stopped a lot of crosses at source and there were people throwing themselves in front of everything.

“This may make people realise the good level we are playing at. All of the players in our squad have played at a good level, whether at youth age-groups or as adults, and the quality throughout our league is really good.

“This has been an unexpected boost, so now we have to take the experience and confidence from the Celtic game and use that in the cups and in trying to climb up the league.”



**PUPIL SUPPORT:** Matt and the EK team enjoy the enthusiastic backing of a large band of boys from the school.





## You can use our website...



to make a payment, report a repair or fault, check school holidays and contact us

If you have internet access, please use our online payments for rent, council tax, parking fines and more. It's available anytime day or night.

### Don't have internet access?

Here's a handy list of our main contact numbers

Payments	0303 123 1005
Housing repairs	0303 123 1010
Council tax and benefits	0303 123 1011
Council tax arrears	0303 123 1014
Housing enquiries (except repairs)	0303 123 1012
Crisis and Community Care grants	0303 123 1007
Social Work and Money Matters	0303 123 1008

Refuse, grounds maintenance and street cleansing	0303 123 1020
Conference and banqueting	0303 123 1009
Bereavement services (cemeteries and crematorium)	0303 123 1016
Parking	0303 123 1006
Customer Services Centre - for other enquiries	0303 123 1015
Out-of-hours emergency repairs and homeless	0800 242 024