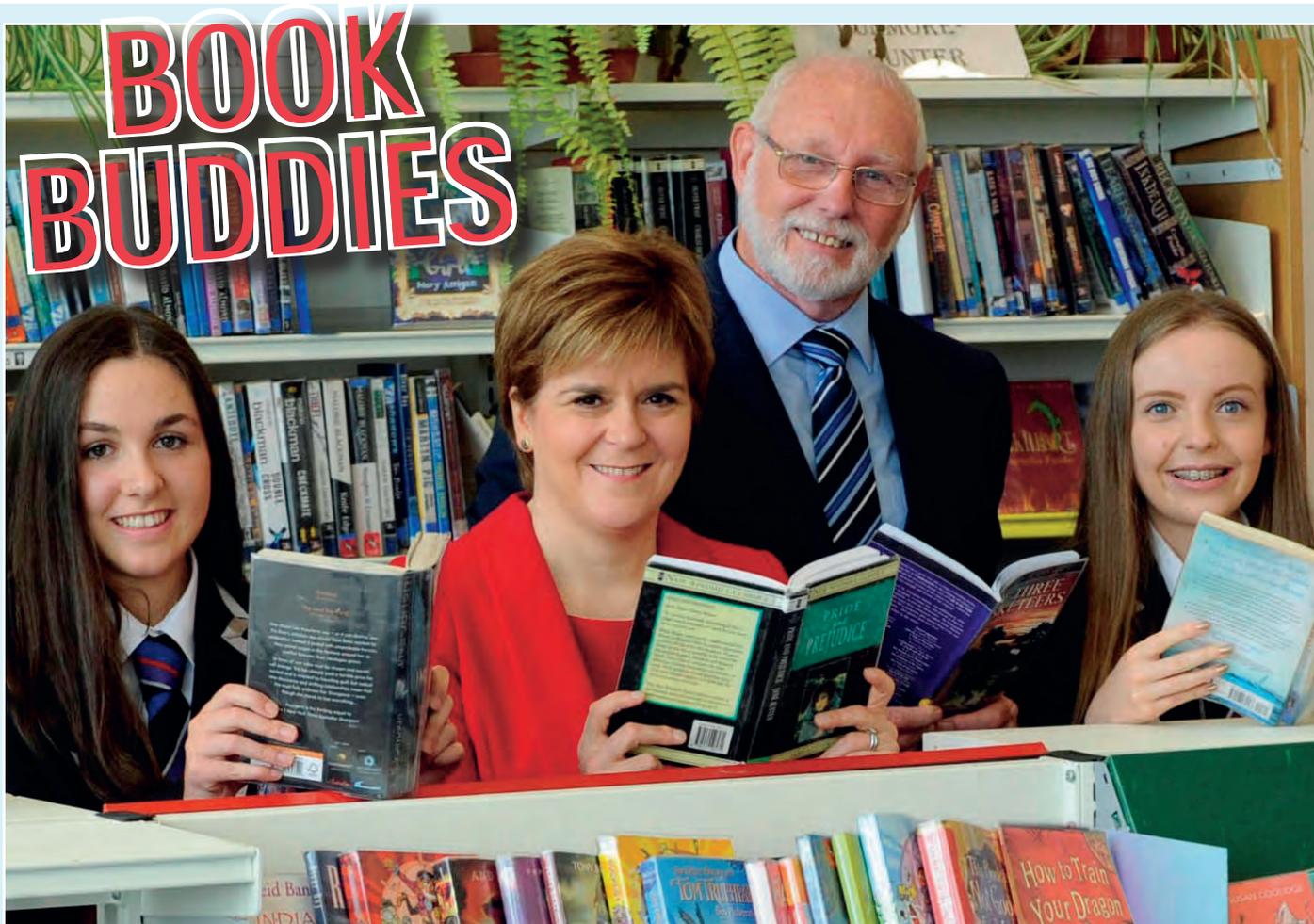


TheView

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council

AUGUST 2017



CHALLENGE: First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Council Leader John Ross and pupils Erin Seils and Katie Hunter at the launch

THE First Minister made a flying visit to a South Lanarkshire school last week to launch a new literacy programme.

Nicola Sturgeon was welcomed to St Andrew's and St Bride's High in East Kilbride by Council Leader John Ross and Headteacher Fiona Mullen.

Ms Sturgeon was there to launch a scheme to encourage literacy and a love of reading in young people. A number of school pupils were there to meet the First

Minister and chat about their reading habits.

The First Minister's Reading Challenge will now be piloted up to S3 in six schools across Scotland, including St Andrew's and St Bride's.

Earlier this year the First Minister announced that the scheme was being rolled out to all primary school children, following a trial year among P4-P7.

The First Minister said: "I am incredibly proud of the success the First Minister's

Reading Challenge has had in nurturing a love of reading for pleasure among Scotland's young people which is why this expansion to secondary schools is so exciting.

"I am determined to ensure we continue to promote reading as one of life's greatest pleasures – and that young people reap the benefits of the resulting educational attainment that can be achieved."

Councillor Ross said: "I am delighted

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INSIDESTORY

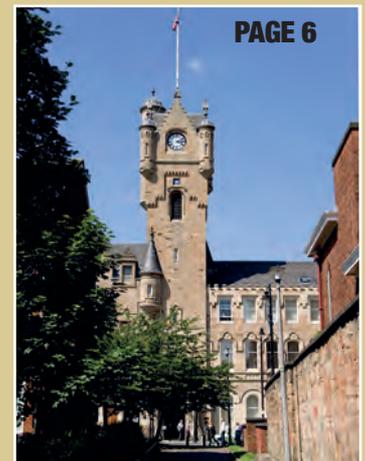
FIRSTDAY



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New £13.5 million Newton Farm Primary School given a big thumbs up

STARATTRACTION



PAGE 6

Town Hall is awarded five star Arts Venue rating

CUPGLORY



PAGE 8

Help keep sporting memories going with Alzheimer Scotland

HIGH QUALITY HOMES DELIVERED BY COUNCIL

WORK is underway on a brand new £4m council housing development - as another project is completed as part of the Home+ programme.

New homes will be built at Belstane Gate in Carluke while the homes at

Maxwellton in East Kilbride are now ready for people to move into.

Built on the site of the former Carluke Primary School, Belstane Gate will see 22 new family homes completed by March 2018.

There will be six two-bedroom, 12 three-bedroom and four four-bedroom semi-detached homes

constructed at the new development.

Chair of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee, Councillor Josh Wilson, was there to see construction work beginning at the site.

He said: "It's great to see the council's commitment to building

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and street cleansing
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0303 123 1006

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SOUTH
LANARKSHIRE
COUNCIL

“These new homes are a perfect example of our ambitious plans”

► From Page 1

new homes which are suitable for modern, family living.

“This development is made up of a mix of family homes with excellent links to schools, community facilities, the road and rail network, shops and many more facilities.

“These new homes are a perfect example of our ambitious plans to provide new high quality accommodation and improve the lives of our tenants and communities.”

The Carluke development is part of the council’s plans for a



MODERN: Part of the completed development at Maxwellton



WORK BEGINS: SLC’s Daniel Lowe, Councillor Josh Wilson, SLC’s Annette Finnan and Bruce Lindsay, Development Manager at CCG at Belstane Gate

massive extension of its council house building programme which pledges to deliver 1000 new homes by 2021/22.

The new target doubles the figure the council had previously set for the new homes programme and sits alongside the

housing improvement works which continue to raise the standard of all council housing in South Lanarkshire.

Recently completed homes in East Kilbride, at the site of the former Maxwellton Primary School, further underline the council’s commitment.

In total 16 properties have been built on the site – four family properties and 12 suitable for older people.

Councillor Wilson said: “All our new council houses are being designed to meet changing modern living standards, with innovative and flexible styles to meet a range of needs.

“Modern design and insulation, and the

incorporation of renewable technologies such as solar panels, will also ensure the homes are energy efficient and cheaper to run, benefitting the environment as well as household budgets.”

Funding for the new homes comes from both the council and the Scottish Government with the council set to spend around £10.32m this year on new homes.

Figures announced in June committed grant subsidies totalling £96.8m from the Scottish Government to South Lanarkshire for the period up to 2021.

A total of 210 new homes will be built across South Lanarkshire during 2017 and 2018.



“We are certainly up for the challenge”

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that St Andrew’s and St Bride’s has been chosen to be one of the schools to pilot the next stage of the First Minister’s Reading Challenge.

“Our schools are doing a tremendous job in encouraging reading for pleasure and the expanded Reading Challenge will build on that success.”

Michael Wilkie, Literacy Coordinator from St Andrew’s and St Bride’s High School, said: ‘We are absolutely thrilled

to be part of the First Minister’s Reading Challenge.

“Reading has been such an important aspect of our plans for raising attainment in the last few years, and this exciting initiative will be the drive to expand reading for pleasure across the entire school community.

“Plans are already in progress to engage parents to help their children be the best readers they can be, to support staff across the curriculum to teach

confidently and assess reading, and to give pupils as many opportunities as possible to pick up a book and get reading.

“With an active and enthusiastic literacy committee and pupils who thrive on reading, we are certainly up for the challenge.”

Marc Lambert, CEO at Scottish Book Trust, which runs the programme, added: “This expansion of the First Minister’s Reading Challenge builds on the huge success of its first

year and opens up the joy of reading for pleasure to all primary children. The secondary school pilot will focus on a key age group, among whom reading for pleasure can tail off due to the pressures on time that come with high school.

“The Reading Challenge will focus attention on this, giving pupils more opportunities to share and celebrate what they love reading, delve deeper into writing and discover different ways to enjoy books.”



MAKING WISHES COME TRUE FOR HAPPY COUPLES

SUPPORT: Backing from SLC's Business Support Team has allowed Janet and Lynzi to grow their business

SOURCING a custom-made samurai sword or artwork of "a quirky Highland cow" is not in the remit of many businesses, but Wedding Wish List is not like many businesses.

In fact, the Strathaven-based company makes it their mission to be out of the ordinary.

Run by mother and daughter Janet Cathro and Lynzi Turnbull, and backed by South Lanarkshire Council Wedding Wish List offers a bespoke wedding gift list service with a personal, imaginative, experienced and flexible approach.

Janet said: "Where we are different from the traditional service is that, if you use a gift list service offered by a large store, then you are tied to their goods, whereas with us you are not restricted to anything at all. We aim to source everything that couples ask for and, thanks to a combination of produce knowledge and good local contacts, we have managed to do so."

Lynzi added: "In addition to the gift list, we also provide each couple with their own secure website, created especially for their wedding to give them a unique way of telling their love story and furnishing their guests with the information they all need." The business began two years ago from a chat during a family trip to the Edinburgh Festival, with the seeds of the idea, planted in that enthusiastic conversation, growing over the following months into a fully-fledged business plan.

Janet has more than 30 years' experience in interior design and furnishings and her shop, Jaro Design Studio in the heart of Strathaven, became a perfect base for Wedding Wish List.

The business grew but it was at the end of last year, when their website was revamped completely, that the full range of their ideas was able to swing into action. South Lanarkshire Council's Business Support Officers lent support to introduce e-commerce functions to the website, to attend wedding fairs and to carry out

necessary improvements to the premises, and the ladies took the opportunity to put in place the full service they had imagined.

Janet revealed: "The new version of our website has made a huge difference. The technology we now have allows us to show what we offer so much better and even at wedding shows it has transformed what we do – instead of having a traditional display of some of the gifts we can offer, we are able to set up a screen and run videos of so much more."

What they do offer is a fully-integrated and all-encompassing service for a bride and groom. The personalised website – password-protected for security and peace of mind – is able to comprise a number of elements according to the wishes of the couple.

Janet laughed. "The experience we draw on is particularly relevant in Lynzi's case – she used our service herself for her wedding two months ago, so she knows well what the couple are going through!"

The mother and daughter team bring differing qualities to the service. Janet has the creative head, with her imagination being perfect for anything from putting together the most appropriate range of gifts for each couple and devising new ideas for the business, while Lynzi's organised and businesslike approach is coupled with her perspective of being within the most common age group for couples who marry.

■ **Wedding Wish List can be contacted at enquiries@weddingwishlistuk.com or on 01357 520597, and their website can be found at weddingwishlistuk.com**



50TH LIVING WAGE WORKPLACE IN SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative are delighted to announce that Blantyre-based Community Links has been accredited as a Living Wage employer.

This Living Wage commitment will see everyone working at Community Links, regardless of whether they are direct employees or third-party contracted staff, receive a minimum hourly wage of £8.45. This rate is significantly higher than the statutory minimum for over 25s of £7.50 per hour introduced in April 2017.

The real Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually and is calculated according to the real costs of living. Employers choose to pay the real Living Wage on a voluntary basis. The Living Wage enjoys cross-party political support.

Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Depute Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, said: "I am delighted that Community



LANDMARK: Morag Pinion, Lindsay Anderson from the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation and Councillor Chalmers

Links have made this commitment and I am pleased that we now have 50 living wage accredited workplaces in South Lanarkshire.

"This will make sure people's basic wage continues to meet the real costs of living. It's testament to the focus that these businesses and third sector organisations put on their employees and is to be welcomed.

"I hope that many more local employers will come on board over the next six months."

Morag Pinion, Project Manager for Community Links, said: "We are delighted to receive accreditation as a Living Wage employer. We are committed to challenging poverty – which includes working poverty – in our local community."

Peter Kelly, Director of the Poverty Alliance added: "I hope more organisations follow Community Link's lead by becoming accredited."

MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

A NEW resource for those who wish to provide exercise for frail older adults in care settings has been launched.

Let's Get Moving is a DVD and booklet which has been developed in partnership with South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

It provides practical examples of



LAUNCH: Val at David Walker Gardens

how exercise can be incorporated into an individual's daily routine.

It builds on the previous partnership resources by South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire. Val de Souza, Director of Health and Social Care at South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, was among those who attended the launch at David Walker Gardens in Rutherglen.

She said: "It's extremely important that we encourage elderly people to be as active as possible.

"This resource is very simple to follow for the people giving out the instructions and exercise, as well as those who are participating.

"It will be available for anyone who works in a caring capacity and thinks it would be beneficial to their clients."

NEWTON FARM PRIMARY IS NEWEST SCHOOL IN SOUTH LANARKSHIRE



DELIVERED: Some of the team responsible for building the new school



GOOD READ: P1 pupil Pippa Lindsay enjoys a book with Tony McDaid and Councillor Katy Loudon

Delight for pupils and staff as school opens its doors

THE new £13.5 million Newton Farm Primary School was given a big thumbs up from pupils and staff when it opened last week.

The school, constructed as part of South Lanarkshire Council's £863 million Primary School Modernisation Programme, is a two storey steel frame building with 14 mainstream classrooms, four ASN classrooms, two nursery playrooms and extensive support spaces such as offices, stores and meeting room.

There is also a large gym hall with built in stage and lighting equipments and a separate dining hall. Both of these can be utilised by the community outwith school hours.

Externally there are

extensive landscaped grounds with an enclosed MUGA (multi use games area) as well as a variety of play equipment to suit all ages and stages at the school and nursery. Pupils can also enjoy the full size 3G pitch.

Headteacher Catherine Meechan said: "All the hard work and planning was worth it when we saw the faces of the children last week on their first day. They were absolutely mesmerised by this bright and airy building. Their sense of wonderment and amazement really brought home what an inspiring building we have here. We are very lucky indeed to have such a modern building which will make coming to school to learn and teach a real pleasure. "It was fantastic that we were able to involve the children in the design of their new uniform in

EXCITED: Sisters Pippa and Lexie Lindsay on their first day



NEW START: P1 pupil Mark Smith and Head Teacher Catherine Meechan mark their first day at Newton Farm

the lead up to the new school opening and all 200 pupils wear it with such pride. We have high hopes that this is going to be a great year for all."

South Lanarkshire Council's Chair of the Education Resources Committee, Councillor Katy Loudon, visited the

school to mark the occasion. She said: "It is immediately apparent that the pupils and staff feel an enormous sense of pride in their new school.

"Of course it has been a unique experience for all of the staff to be involved in the planning and set up of a

brand new school. Not many people can say they've been involved from day one but it is the pupils who make the school and the fact that they too are thriving with their new school is phenomenal. I have absolutely no doubt that each and every pupil will thrive at Newton Farm

Primary School and I wish them all the very best for the exciting year ahead."

Parents also gave the school top marks. Victoria Hughes, mum to P1 pupil Mark Smith, said: "All the children had a great first day and all seemed very happy to come back, which is a good sign.

"The in-house Education and Community clients worked closely together with the architectural and construction teams to successfully deliver the brand new school and community facility"

Executive Director of Housing and Technical Resources, Daniel Lowe said: "This project is a prime example of collaborative working within a local authority.

The in-house Education and Community clients worked closely together with the architectural and construction teams to successfully deliver the brand new school and community facility. I am sure the pupils, parents and wider community will be extremely proud of their new school."

And Education Resources Executive Director, Tony McDaid said: "The job that our colleagues in Housing and Technical Resources have done in delivering this brand new school has been absolutely first-class.



MEMORIAL HALL SET FOR TWO HIT SHOWS

TICKETS for two smash hit shows at Lanark Memorial Theatre are now on sale.

Children's favourite The Gruffalo and hilarious comedy Girls' Night Oot will both be at the venue next month.

Based on the much loved picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, Tall Stories' production of The Gruffalo first opened on 12 May 2001, 18 months after the book was first published.

The most fearsome creature that never was - but is - takes to the stage in this enchanting production combining songs, laughter and



SCARY: Youngsters will love the live action version of the Gruffallo

storytelling theatre with just the right amount of scary fun.

Set to a wonderfully catchy score with original music and lyrics, The Gruffalo is a must-see show which continues to entertain audiences the world over. The performances will take place on Saturday, 9 September and Sunday, 10 September at 11am and 1.30pm on both dates. Tickets cost £12 or £9 for groups of nine or more.

Meanwhile, a very different kind of show will take place when Girls Night Oot visits the Memorial Hall following a very successful tour all over Scotland.

The show is full of hilarious banter, cheeky surprises and stunning singing, all based around a group of friends getting together for a hen night.

It will take place on Friday, September 29 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £14 or £12 for concessions.

■ Tickets for both shows can be purchased from the Box Office on 01555 667999 or online via www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk



TOWN HALL IS A FIVE-STAR ATTRACTION



STAFF at Rutherglen Town Hall were celebrating recently following a prestigious award which confirmed what they already knew – the venue is a five-star attraction.

The Town Hall was awarded the five-star Arts Venue rating by Visit Scotland's Quality Assurance Scheme earlier this year.

The Town Hall joins its sister site, the Town House in Hamilton, in achieving the rating. Both venues are managed and operated by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's Cultural Services Section on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture General Manager, Gerry Campbell, said: "This is a tremendous accolade for Rutherglen Town Hall and for the staff who work hard together and are committed to providing the highest standards of quality to ensure that the Town Hall is such a wonderful South Lanarkshire Arts Venue.

"Achieving five-star status this year is a great testament to the quality of the Town Hall and the calibre of our staff and congratulations must go to them for their continued hard work and commitment.

"It shows the standards we set that two of our venues in South Lanarkshire are five-star attractions."

The Visitor Attraction scheme was previously run by the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions and was



DELIGHTED: The team at Rutherglen Town Hall proudly show off the award which gives them five-star status

assessed on a pass / fail basis. Visit Scotland took over the running of the scheme in 1993 and by 1996 had begun grading as Approved, Commended and Highly Commended.

There are currently over 1200 attractions in the Quality Assurance scheme across Scotland with 40 plus of these are graded as an Arts Venue,

however only a handful of Arts Venues, including Rutherglen Town Hall and The Town House, Hamilton, have achieved five star status.

VisitScotland assessors found that the professionalism, friendliness and welcoming attitude of the staff at Rutherglen Town Hall played a big part in the venue achieving its five-star status.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN HALL

Set in the heart of Rutherglen on Main Street, the Category A-listed Town Hall and Tower was designed by Charles Wilson in 1861-62.

The east wing was added in 1876 by Robert Dalgleish and John Thomson.

After being converted to offices in 1967, the building was closed to the public in the 1980s.

An ambitious project began in 1996 by South Lanarkshire Council to restore the building to its former glory, with financial assistance from Historic Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.

Costing around £10m, the refurbished building reopened to the public in 2005 and won the top planning award in Scotland for its combination of design and community engagement.

It is now a premier location for arts and cultural activities, exhibitions, conferencing, banqueting and weddings.

TOWN HALL ACTIVITIES

The Town Hall has offered a huge range of events and shows for the local community and beyond since re-opening in 2005.

The Town Hall team have welcomed the late great Paul Daniels, the amazing David Hayman and pantomime dame Ed Reid – to name just a small few.

Tributes to the amazing Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Bruce Springsteen, Frankie Valli and Elvis have also graced the Town Hall stage.

And it's not just the shows that are delivered. Earlier this year, the Town Hall was a venue for Rutherglen Comic Con – with over 1700 people arriving to rub shoulders with Hans Solo, Storm Troopers and a couple of Ghostbusters – and the team are hoping to extend this to a two day event next year.

The Town Hall has helped around 250 couples to celebrate their weddings and there have been numerous birthdays, christenings and anniversary celebrations held there too. It's rare to find a Saturday night that there isn't some sort of celebration happening in the Grand Hall.

■ For full details on upcoming events at the Town Hall go to: www.slleisureandculture.co.uk

SOUTH LANARSHIRE COUNCIL HONOURED AT SCOTTISH TRANSPORT 'OSCARS'

THE best of Scotland's transport industry were honoured recently at the 15th Annual Scottish Transport Awards in Glasgow.

Hosted this year by writer, presenter and actor Sanjeev Kohli, the Awards recognise excellence, innovation and progress across all areas of transport in Scotland.

The top award of the night for local authorities, Local Transport Authority of the Year, was presented to South Lanarkshire Council.

Picking up the Award on

behalf of the council were Gordon Mackay, Head of Roads and Transportation Services, and Colin Park, Engineering Manager.

Gordon Mackay said: "We were absolutely delighted to receive this prestigious accolade, which is testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team.

"We are very proud of our sustainable, integrated, partnership approach, which ensures that our residents and businesses can access a safe and reliable transport network

that meets their developing needs.

"This award highlights all the areas where the council is delivering genuine improvements across the transport related asset group and for those living, working and travelling in South Lanarkshire.

"As well as maintaining our core assets, we are also focusing on delivering new and improved infrastructure across all transport modes.

"From road maintenance to casualty reduction we



TOP AWARD: Gordon Mackay and Colin Park from SLC with Sanjeev Kohli (left) and Roy Brannen, chief exec of Transport Scotland (right)

are striving to continually improve our performance and these efforts are producing impressive results with substantial progress being

made in providing better services, in very difficult financial times.

"We are pleased that this has been honoured in this way."



TEEING UP A CAREER

IT is claimed the biggest deals in business are often sealed on the golf course and for young people on a South Lanarkshire employment skills course that certainly seems to be the case.

They are reaping the rewards of a new course which has seen them transformed from trainees unsure about even going for an interview, to confident young people who are moving forward in their careers.

What has made such a significant difference in such a short time?

Operated by South Lanarkshire Council's Hamilton Training Unit (HTU) and commissioned by the council's Education Resources Aspire team, the course lets young people develop skills including work experience, team working, communication, time keeping and attendance.

Trainee Ben Cameron, 16, says it works: "When I started I was so shy I could not speak to people, I would come in late or not turn up but now I have more confidence, I am much better at communicating and I realise you need to be reliable, you need to turn up."

HTU Vocational Development Officer Danny Sneddon said: "Aspire refers young people to us towards the end of their school years if they have been identified as lacking the skills for the world of work or to continue in formal education.

"Some were disengaged at school and have few or no qualifications, others lack confidence or have such low self esteem they think nobody would want to offer them a job,

"The practical part of the programme has them cutting grass, preparing bunkers, pruning, weeding, painting and any other suitable tasks. The effort they have put in has not gone unnoticed."

Head Greenkeeper Stephen Hunter said: "They have made a huge difference to the course and we are pleased to have them here, in the past my own sons were supported by the HTU and it is great to have a part in helping other young people."

Ross Stoddart, 17, said: "Some of us used to carry on because we thought we were being

"When people come up to you and say the golf course has never looked better you are doing a great job it gives you a real confidence boost"



READY: The trainees are learning valuable skills on the course

smart but coming here we have learned if you behave and present yourself in the right way in return people treat you with more respect."

Dylan Murphy, 16, added: "When people come up to you and say the golf course has never looked better you are doing a great job it gives you a real confidence boost."

Danny Sneddon said: "What is great is employers playing the course or visiting the club have seen the trainees at work and are coming to us with offers of work placements, many of them hoping it will lead to a permanent post or a modern apprenticeship.

"Those employers include L.S. Smellie, Raeburn Brick, Clyde Windows, Jim Preston Butchers and Castle Composites."

ASPIRE Team Leader Hugh Whitelaw said: "Young people are referred to us through routes including Skills Development Scotland and schools, we work with them to see where their interests lie, what they need to improve and how we can support them.

"The programme at Strathaven Golf Club is not necessarily about training new greenkeepers. It is about gaining transferrable skills in a setting that suits them which will stand them in good stead with future employers. We have other young people going down alternative routes including construction and hairdressing."

Welfare Reform means changes to benefits

BIG changes to the way benefits are paid are to be introduced in the next few months, affecting thousands of South Lanarkshire residents.

Among the changes is the introduction of Universal Credit, which will replace the following benefits:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credits
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit

A new one-off monthly payment will replace all of these benefits. Universal Credit can only be paid directly into a bank, building society or credit union account.

It is vital that everyone has their own email address, as you can only apply for Universal Credit at: www.gov.uk/universal-credit. Anyone who doesn't have internet access at home can visit their local Job Centre Plus to help with their claim. Local libraries and community hubs may also offer help to get online.

Executive Director of Housing and Technical Resources, Daniel Lowe, said: "We appreciate that these changes will have massive implications for many people across South Lanarkshire.

"That is why we are encouraging anyone who thinks they may be affected to find out as much information as possible.

"The focus is now very much on the individual to manage their own budgets and payments.

"This may mean people are having to make payments, for example rent, from the money they receive as part of their Universal Credit."

Full support and advice is available from a variety of sources, including the council's Money Matters, Benefits Are Changing and Council Tax and Benefits services. For more information go to www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

■ Citizens Advice can also offer advice – find your local bureau at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

MEN'S SHED GOING MOBILE

AFTER proving a hit in Hamilton, East Kilbride and Rutherglen, Men's Shed is set to go mobile in South Lanarkshire after Seniors Together were awarded more than £170,000 of National Lottery funding.

The Men's Shed movement involves establishing meeting places for older men where they can get together to share hobbies, learn new skills, make friends and get information. From its origins in Australia it has become a global phenomenon.

In South Lanarkshire, Seniors Together has taken a lead role in supporting the development of the three existing Men's Shed groups and now has been successful in securing a three year Big Lottery Fund grant of £117,181 to support a "Mobile Men's Shed" programme.

The first step to getting mobile has been to source a suitable vehicle to be adapted – and one has now been found. A former mobile library which was no longer being used will be adapted at a cost of £25,000.

The shed on wheels will travel across South Lanarkshire delivering a programme designed to help to reduce feelings of loss, isolation and loneliness amongst older men in urban and rural communities by establishing new men's shed groups.

Helen Biggins, Chairperson of Seniors Together said: "We are absolutely delighted about this National Lottery award from the Big Lottery Fund and can't wait to get started."



TRANSFORMING: Cameron Ballentine, Christine Calder and Ally Cambell with the vehicle that will be adapted



UP FOR THE CUP: Welcoming the Scottish Cup and the Scottish Junior Cup to the Football Memories Group at Rutherglen Library are (left to right) Councillor David Watson, Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure Trust; Robert Craig, Chair of Trustees at the Scottish Football Museum; Gerry Campbell, General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture; and Helen White, whose father, Harry Beaton, captained Clyde to their Scottish Cup Final win in 1939

CUP MAGIC SHINES OVER FOOTBALL MEMORIES GROUP

FOR those who follow football, cup competitions hold a brand of magic all of their own and gather a host of memories along the way.

What better way, then, to stimulate reminiscences at a Football Memories Group for dementia sufferers than to have them visited by two of the most venerated trophies in this country?

The members of the group who meet at Rutherglen Library had a chance to see the Scottish Cup and the Scottish Junior Cup and it was safe to say that in a town with a long tradition of junior, senior and international football there were was much to chat about as a result.

The Football Memories project is a partnership between Alzheimer Scotland and The Scottish Football Museum at Hampden and groups meet monthly in Rutherglen and Hamilton.

Similar groups are run across the country and are led by volunteers who are trained to spend time with people who may be socially isolated or living with dementia, and have an interest in football.

Robert Craig, Chair of Trustees at the Scottish Football Museum, brought the cups to Rutherglen Library and revealed the strong links between the museum and the local group.

He said: "The Football Memories project began in 2009 with just three pilot groups and there are now 150 groups from Shetland to Stranraer. Scotland is now acknowledged as a world-leader in this type of therapeutic intervention, with recognition for this project

being received from places as far-flung as Brazil and America.

"The project has grown in resources and scope to the extent that we are now looking at how we can help other sports in the same way. This level of success is due to a host of people, but perhaps the most important among them are the volunteers who run the groups – we wouldn't function without them and we are constantly grateful for their work."

Councillor David Watson, Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure Trust, said: "This project is something we are really passionate about – there is great work being done by the library staff and it is invaluable that there is a real drive behind this from the very top, with General Manager Gerry Campbell being so supportive of it.

"We want to embrace Football Memories and push it out into other areas, supporting it where we can and, as Robert said, the biggest stars are the volunteers. We couldn't do this without them, and I would encourage more people to become involved in what is such an effective and

rewarding activity. The more people who come forward to help, the quicker we can spread this out and help with the vital work being done to help people with dementia."

Staff and residents from South Lanarkshire Council's David Walker Gardens care home are heavily involved in the Rutherglen group, and were delighted to be able to lift the cup for themselves.

Social Care worker Margaret-Rose Watt, who works at David Walker Gardens, said: "Several of our residents come to the group every month, and it is wonderful to see the enjoyment they get from it. There is nothing quite like it for sparking interest and conversation, and I would encourage anyone to get involved in any way they can."

■ Anyone interested in volunteering with the project will be fully trained by Alzheimer Scotland to enable them to help with an existing or new group. Further information can be obtained from Fiona Renfrew, at South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, at fiona.renfrew@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk or on (01698) 452149, or from the project's website at www.footballmemories.org.uk



LIFTING THE TROPHY: Cathy Connelly, who turned 95 just three days later, was delighted to get her hands on the Scottish Cup

Park prepares for Mud Madness

IT is time to book your place as Chatelherault Country Park prepares for a day of Mud Madness.

Outdoor obstacle races have become massively popular and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) is launching its own event at Chatelherault with 1k and 5k courses for children and a full 10k route for adults.

The adult course will take runners through Chatelherault Country Park uphill and downhill with various obstacles – including some of the River Avon – all to be conquered on the 10k route.

The junior 1K will be held on the front field of the country park for under 12s, the junior 5K will be a mini version of the adult route including some obstacles for 12-15 year olds.

And SLLC staff will be getting in on the action with rival teams from centres across South Lanarkshire competing to see who is crowned SLLC Mud Madness Champions with hot competition coming from Carluke



MUDDY FUN: Orlagh and Niamh Murphy can't wait for the event

Leisure Centre, Lanark Lifestyles, Hamilton Water Palace, Blantyre Leisure Centre and Dollan Aqua Centre.

The inaugural Mud Madness event takes place on Sunday, 8 October with a warm up and start time of 10:00am for adults and entry fees as follows:

- Adult Fitness Member £5.00
 - Adult non member £10.00
 - Adult Team of 4 – all members £20.00
 - Adult Team of 4 – all non members £40.00
- Price includes a medal and event t-shirt. The Junior 1K & 5K events have a start time of 12 noon and entry fees are:
- Junior ACE member £2.50
 - Junior non member £5.00
- Price includes a medal and event t-shirt. Registrations/bookings can be made at any SLLC leisure centre and all entries must be in by 22 September 2017.

■ For full details see the SLLC website http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/news/article/2576/sllc_outdoor_mud_madness

TRADING STANDARDS WARNING OVER ROGUE TRADERS

SOUTH Lanarkshire Trading Standards have issued a warning over high pressure sales tactics targeting older people after two local cases involving thousands of pounds.

Both cases involved a Felixstowe based company, which has since gone into administration, but had previously been prosecuted by Suffolk Trading Standards in 2013 and 2015.

One South Lanarkshire resident was pressured into paying almost £5000 for a mobility recliner chair while

another couple paid £2000 for a bed with massage function and a remote control that was never delivered.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, Councillor John Anderson, said: "Westminster Recliners has gone into administration but we believe those involved have links to another trader working in the same field, in addition the aggressive and manipulative sales tactics they used are common among rogue traders.

"We would always advise people to have a family member, friend or neighbour present when a salesperson calls, reputable companies will not turn up unannounced and will have no objection to consumers, particularly the elderly or vulnerable, having someone present to support them."

■ Anyone with any concerns should contact Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0345 040 506.