



TheView

November 2014

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council

GALLOPING TO A CHARITY WINDFALL

LEGO SHOW WAS REALLY AWESOME



INSIDESTORY

Streetwise



Training Junior Road Safety Officers

Flowerpower



Growing success for colourful communities

Rockofages



Stars graced Olympia Ballroom

MILESTONE FOR FLAGSHIP PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

100 and counting

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council's £800million Primary School Modernisation programme has hit another significant milestone.

More than 100 primary schools have now been built or totally refurbished and nearly 81%, or approximately 20,000, of children in nursery, primary and Additional Support Needs establishments are now being taught in new school buildings.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, Councillor Eddie McAvoy said: "We committed to the Primary Schools Modernisation project 10 years ago and I am very proud that, despite the tough economic climate, we have continued apace and are nearing the end of our groundbreaking programme.

"The new schools provide light and bright surroundings for pupils and create an ideal place for children to learn and staff to teach. The schools are fully equipped for 21st century learning with first-class IT provision throughout and a range of flexible accommodation that can be used for different styles of teaching.

"By replacing old, outdated buildings with attractive, modern structures, we have also changed scores of our local neighbourhoods for the better, and the schools themselves provide welcome facilities for those communities.

"The investment is testament to this council's commitment to providing our young people with the very best education from nursery right through to secondary school and beyond."

The five schools that together took the project past the 100 mark were South Park, East Milton and St Leonard's in East Kilbride, St John's in Blackwood, and Kirkton in Carluke. In total, 96 brand-new primary schools have been built, while six more have been totally refurbished.

The council's secondary school estate was also fully modernised as part of the £318million Secondary Schools Modernisation Programme, with all 17 of the area's mainstream secondary schools and two additional support needs secondary schools being transformed to meet the needs of a 21st Century learning environment.

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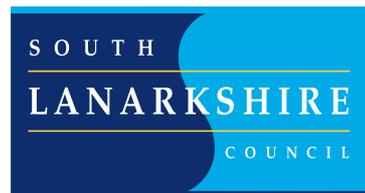
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Phone 01698 454959
Email: margaret.barr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



New recycling service for flats coming soon



You can recycle:

- ✓ Paper and cardboard
- ✓ Tins and cans
- ✓ Plastic bottles
- ✓ Plastic tubs and trays
- ✓ Drinks cartons
- ✓ Aerosols
- ✓ Aluminium
- ✓ Newspapers and magazines

Don't put in blue bin:

- ✗ Glass
- ✗ Food waste
- ✗ Crisp packets
- ✗ Packaging with food on it
- ✗ Plastic bags

MORE THAN 10,000 flats in South Lanarkshire are soon to benefit from a new recycling service which will enable residents to recycle a wide range of items easily from home.

The new service began in the East Kilbride area in September this year and is set to be rolled out to all other areas of South Lanarkshire.

The Scottish Government has set ambitious recycling targets for councils to recycle 60% of household waste by 2020. To date our recycling has been a great success with tonnage currently sitting in excess of 55,000 tonnes of household waste per year.

But, we need to do more, so don't let a good thing go to waste!

With this in mind, the council is now extending recycling services to flatted properties throughout South Lanarkshire and residents will be able to recycle materials such as paper, card, plastic,

tins, cans and aerosols when the new alternate week collection service is introduced.

Residents in flatted properties will receive a new, white recycling bag and an individually numbered blue recycling bin, or a shared recycling bin, depending on which is appropriate for their property.

The white recycling bag enables you to collect and store a wide range of materials for recycling in your home until you are ready to empty it into your individually numbered blue bin, or to your shared recycling bin. Once you have emptied it into the main blue recycling bin take the bag back home and you are then ready to start refilling your bag with your next recycling items.

The blue bins will be emptied every two weeks, on an alternate week basis with the normal refuse bin, so, if you have an individual blue bin for your property please place your bin out on the kerbside

by 7:30am on your collection day.

And remember that tidy communities are safer places so look after your bin and return it to storage as soon as possible after emptying. Remember, obstructions to the paths can cause a great deal of danger and stress to wheelchair users and families with pushchairs.

The council will also empty the shared recycling bins on site.

You will shortly be receiving a leaflet for you to keep which will contain a comprehensive list of what can and cannot be recycled, however, please be aware that if your bin is consistently full of the wrong materials then it may not be emptied.

Staying safe is CommonSense

A NEW initiative is looking to remind East Kilbride residents that it makes sense to keep common areas tidy for their own safety.

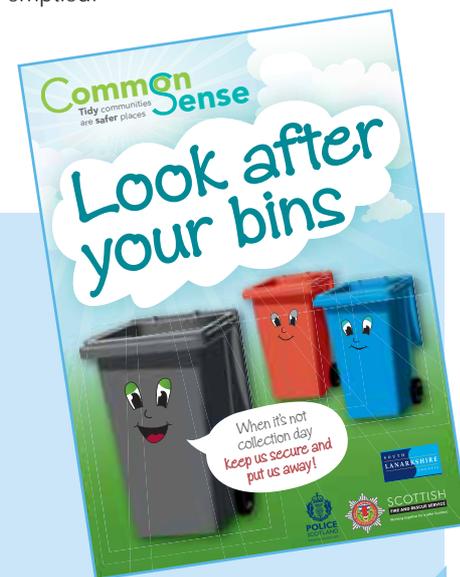
CommonSense has been launched by South Lanarkshire Council, along with Scottish Fire & Rescue and Police Scotland, to promote the idea that communities that are uncluttered by rubbish don't just look better, but they are also safer to live in.

Housing officers carry out regular visits to blocks of flats, where the council is landlord or factor, to check that common areas are kept clear and there is no danger to residents or visitors, including the risk of fire.

Officers identify potential problems, including any blockages to common stairwells or household rubbish that is not disposed of properly. Rubbish discarded

carelessly can be set on fire, putting property and residents at risk, and this is especially so in blocks of flats and common and shared areas.

Officers from the council and the two emergency services are promoting the campaign through visits to communities and schools, and reminders to local residents are placed on wheelie bins and refuse vehicles.





Plan set to breathe new life into former Daks site

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council has granted planning permission in principle for a proposed multi-million pound redevelopment of former Daks Simpson site in Larkhall.

A masterplan submitted by Patersons Property Investment Partnership will see the eight-hectares split into two distinct areas – residential and commercial – creating the potential for hundreds of new homes, and jobs.

At a recent meeting of the authority's planning committee, councillors were told that the site had been identified as a development framework site in the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan.

The Daks Simpson site in Larkhall's Strutherhill Industrial Estate has lain vacant since the factory closed its doors in March 2002.

Park and ride boost for Blantyre

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) are set to boost the capacity of the Park and Ride facility at Blantyre Railway station by more than double.

The £325,000 plan – funded by SPT – was approved by councillors at a recent meeting of the council's Planning Committee.

Work is now scheduled to kick off in the coming months to create the new 60-space car park on an area of vacant land on Station Road.

As well as additional parking, the new development will provide enhanced street lighting, CCTV and cycle racks and could be open to the public by early 2015.



A PUBLIC art project that captured the imagination of people across South Lanarkshire has raised more than £67,000 for charity.

The Ready Steady Gallop project resulted in 25 fibreglass Clydesdale horse sculptures popping up all over Hamilton before being auctioned in aid of the Kilbryde Hospice.

The finished designs included a Cameronian soldier, a Roman warrior and a design based on the gardens at Chatelherault, and could be seen at locations including Chatelherault Park, Low Parks Museum, Strathclyde Park, M&D's and The Regent Shopping Centre.

The biggest bid, £7200, was attracted by 'Cameron', designed by Angela Nisbet, followed closely by the £5000 brought in by 'Wildlife of the Clyde Valley' – which was the design of her husband, Thomas!

Angela also designed the horse 'Duke's Garden' that netted £2000, meaning the couple's handiwork brought in more than £14000 towards the overall total of £67,800.

The project was organised by the Hamilton Business Improvement District (BID) and Wild in Art.

As well as generating money for the Hospice, the project aimed to generate extra footfall for Hamilton businesses.

New road is the real Deal

CONSTRUCTION of a brand new £21m road designed to ease congestion is expected to begin in 2016.

Cathkin Bypass will be the first of a number of South Lanarkshire projects to get underway as part of the £1.13 billion Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal.

The total investment in the South Lanarkshire area is approximately £170m.

Further projects will follow on in due course including capacity improvements along Greenhills Road / A726 in the south of East Kilbride and through the Stewartfield Way corridor to the north of East Kilbride. Infrastructure improvements will also be delivered to support Community Growth Areas across South Lanarkshire.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, Councillor Eddie McAvoy, said: "The projects set to take place in South Lanarkshire as part of the City Deal will make a huge difference to our area.

"Not only will they bring jobs during the construction phase, they will also make long-lasting improvements to our infrastructure.

"I am delighted we are involved in the City Deal and 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 cement the Clyde Valley region as one of Europe's leading areas with a vibrant, thriving economy."

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.

It was signed in August by Danny



Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Greg Clark, Minister for Cities, Derek Mackay, Local Government and Planning Minister and council Depute Leader Jackie Burns, above second from right.

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

Mr Clark said: "The Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal is one of the most significant deals we have agreed.

"Innovation, transport infrastructure, business support, investment in life sciences and skills for young people are all essential foundations for jobs and prosperity, which are being enhanced by this historic City Deal."

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.

As well as significant infrastructure investment, there will also be investment in life sciences and business support as well as employment programmes.

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.



Our service to you

Salt usage and spend



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

Time taken to cover route



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

Length of road network



Vehicles and equipment

We can call on our fleet of **56 gritters**, **43 snowploughs**, **one snowblower**, **24 tractors**, **six loaders** and **200 roads workers** to salt the roads, clear snow and keep road and footpaths maintained by us in a safe condition as far as possible.



Number of grit bins



Top tips when snow arrives

Shovel snow using as large a blade as possible. Making a line down the middle of your path and shovelling the snow to either side can also make things easier.

Use ordinary table salt on your path to stop ice forming. Locations of grit bins are available by visiting www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Let the sun melt the ice after you've shovelled off the snow. This will only work if daytime temperatures are well above freezing.

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

Get ready for winter



REGARDLESS of the time of year, the weather is always one of the major talking points across the country.

It doesn't matter if temperatures are high, low or average, wet or dry, as a nation it seems we can't get enough of anything weather-related.

And it is around this time of year that most people's attention starts to turn to the season which can throw all manner of atrocious weather our way – sometimes in the space of a few hours.

Winter is the season when blizzards, freezing rain, fog, icy conditions and plunging temperatures can cause problems across the 1400 miles of road for which South Lanarkshire Council has responsibility.

However, preparations for winter begin long before the first frost of the season hits.

Behind the scenes a team of people is putting the final touches to the routes gritters will take over the winter, as well as ensuring all the vehicles and equipment are in correct working order.

Keeping the traffic moving during periods of severe weather is one of the toughest challenges facing any local authority.

It is why resources must be targeted at essentially the main routes across the road network.

Class A and B roads are treated as a priority, as will rural roads in Clydesdale that are the only way in and out of towns and villages.

In urban areas, district and local distributor roads will be treated as will access routes to hospitals and a vehicle access to schools.

This means that 52 per cent of the South Lanarkshire road network is gritted when temperatures are forecast to be below freezing. The council receives three forecasts a day from Meteogroup, Europe's largest private weather business.

In recent years the winters have been much milder and wetter, which can lead to flooding problems across the area.

Depending on the amount of rainfall, known flood risk areas are monitored.

Culverts are also checked by the team of flood scouts, with any blockages removed.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Enterprise Services Committee, Councillor Chris Thompson, said: "The challenges posed to us by winter each year do not change.

"The message we always promote is simple – we are very well prepared and will do everything we can – but we need the public to help themselves as much as possible.

"This can be simple things like clearing your own driveway, making sure your car is prepared and packed for any sudden changes in weather and driving according to the road conditions.

"And – if able – we would also ask people to help out their neighbours, particularly those who may be elderly or are not fit to be removing snow or ice.

"The presumption has to be that roads outwith the precautionary gritting network will not be treated, other than in situations of serious hardship."

How to help yourself

In the car



If you have a vehicle make sure it is well prepared before winter weather sets in:

- Be sure it has recently been serviced
- Check your tyres are correctly inflated and have plenty of grip
- Make sure you have adequate antifreeze in your radiator
- Check all your lights are working
- Replace your battery if it's not reliable.



Consider putting in a **basic emergency kit**. This may include:

- Ice scraper and de-icer, torch that works (and some spare batteries), shovel, small bag of salt, boots, first aid kit, jump leads, local road map (should you need to find an alternative route), warm clothes and blankets.

At home



Do you have a snow shovel? Footpaths in residential areas will generally not be gritted by the council, so you can help by clearing your own footpath and helping less able neighbours.



Athletes' visit is pure gold

COMMONWEALTH GAMES gold medallists Kimberly and Louise Renicks dropped into St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton, as part of a series of athletes' school visits that are taking place across the country.

The sisters were able to demonstrate some of their judo moves to pupils through Game on Scotland, a Legacy 2014 programme delivered by a partnership between the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Glasgow 2014 and Glasgow City Council.

Louise Renicks said: "Kimberly and I feel privileged to be able to share our experiences as athletes with learners through the Game On Scotland visits

programme. We believe, as role models, we can inspire young people to be the best they can be in life, no matter what their circumstances, preferences or abilities."

Gerry Campbell, general manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, said: "The success of Glasgow 2014 has provided a great opportunity for a host of agencies to use the positive images of sport and physical activity from Glasgow 2014 to inspire young people and others to engage in sport. Visits by athletes from Team Scotland are highly motivational and South Lanarkshire welcomes any opportunity to get involved."

CROWDS FLOCK TO BRICK CITY EVERYTHING ABOUT IT WAS AWESOME

THE LEGO® Brick City exhibition at Hamilton's Low Parks Museum welcomed its 5000th visitor as crowds poured through the doors to see the breathtaking models.

Grandmother René Rigby went along with her grandchildren Abbie and Alexander (both aged 6) to enjoy one of the most successful events ever staged by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC).

The cousins, who attend Kirkton Primary School in Carluke, were delighted to pick up a construction playset each from the Chair of the board of SLLC, Councillor Hamish Stewart, to mark the milestone event. The family will also enjoy a complimentary lunch in the cafe when they next visit.

Said Mrs Rigby, from Morningside, near Wishaw: "I'm delighted to be the 5000th visitor to the exhibition – and my grandchildren are especially excited to have the chance to come back to pick up their prizes. Hats off to everyone involved at Low Parks in giving us a day out that the whole family could enjoy. We will definitely be back."

Featuring 60 stunning architectural scale models of major landmarks and iconic global images, the exhibition gave visitors the chance to marvel at the intricacy of the 60 stunning architectural scale models

of major landmarks and iconic global images – including our own iconic mausoleum and Low Parks Museum itself.

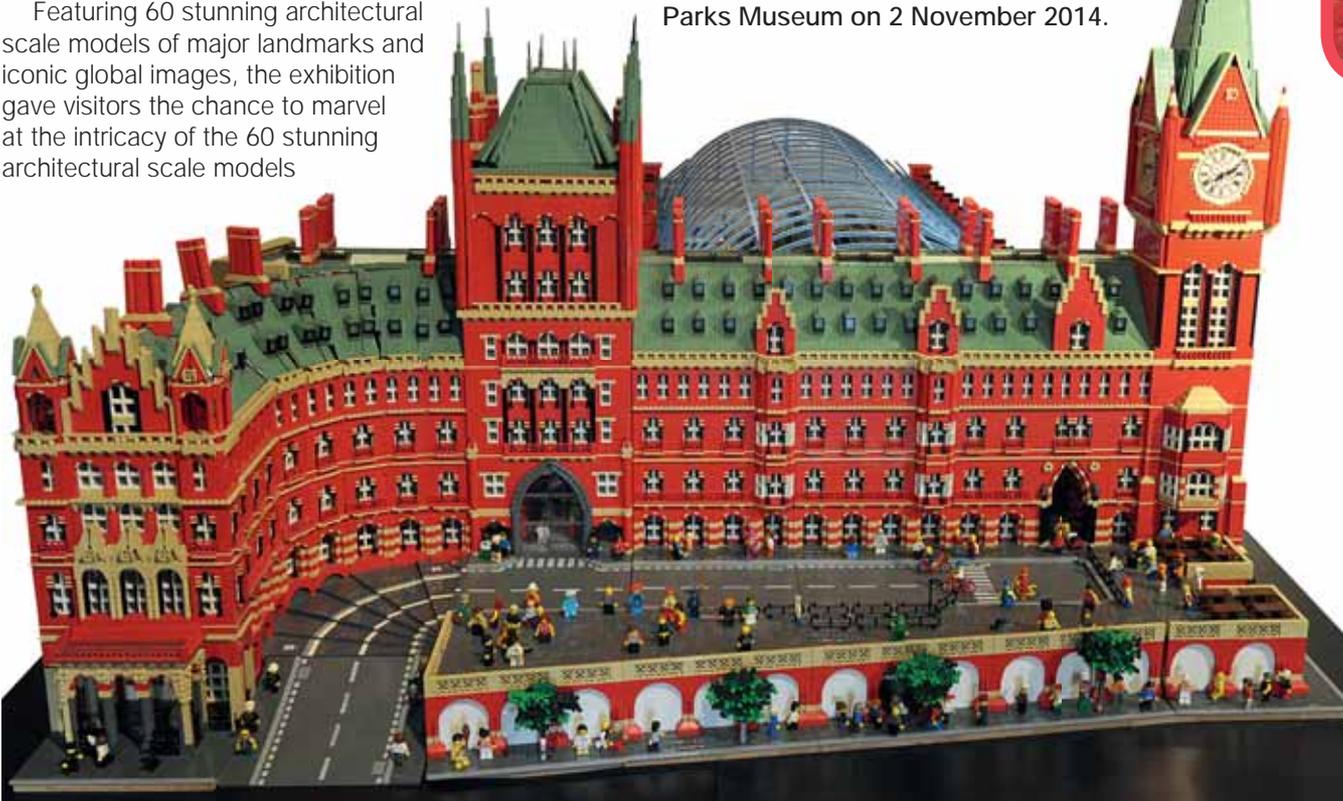
All had been painstakingly recreated by Edinburgh-based artist Warren Elsmore, and taking centre stage was a breathtaking recreation of St. Pancras Station, London, built from 150,000 LEGO bricks and which took an astonishing two years to complete.

Concluded Councillor Stewart: "The Brick City tour has been a huge success and we are delighted to have welcomed so many thousands through the door at Low Parks Museum – which in itself is a fantastic venue.

"The appeal of LEGO is universal and adults and children alike have been fascinated by the amazing constructions and keen to get in to build a masterpiece of their own.

"We are proud and honoured to have been part of the tour."

The Brick City exhibition closed at Low Parks Museum on 2 November 2014.





On the right road

PUPILS from across South Lanarkshire have been finding out what a Junior Road Safety Officer's job is all about.

JRSOs are pupils who have demonstrated a keen interest in raising awareness of road safety issues within their school.

An Open Day was held at Chatelherault Country Park recently which introduced them to their role.

This year 99 schools attended the event, with around 297 JRSOs.

There were a number of activities organised throughout the day, such as a traffic trail, road safety game and informational DVD as well as ideas and information about what should be displayed on notice boards in the schools. Pupils were also very excited to meet the mascot 'Road Safety Simone'.

Representatives from Police Scotland, Fire Scotland, Cycling Scotland, Living Streets and transport and logistics company Norbert Dentressangle were all in attendance.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Road Safety Forum, Councillor Graham Simpson, said: "I am delighted that we have so many Junior Road Safety Officers in place across South Lanarkshire.

"I hope that by giving young people a passion for road safety at an early age we are providing them with knowledge that will last them all their lives.

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

Fit for life

MORE than 150 professionals met last month to share and exchange innovative ideas and approaches to encourage older people to remain physically and mentally active.

The Active Ageing conference organised by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC), in conjunction with the council and NHS Lanarkshire, brought together a range of international speakers who shared their own experiences of successful programmes to promote physical activity for older people.

The event was fronted by 79-year-old journalist and sports commentator, Archie Macpherson who also gave a special introduction to some of South Lanarkshire's oldest fitness members including 96-year-old William Cowan, who swims regularly at Larkhall Leisure Centre, and 94-year-old country dance enthusiast and swimmer, Peter Condie.

Gerry Campbell, General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, said: "Over the next few years it's predicted that the number of older people will continue to rise and encouragingly that population is keen to engage in more regular physical and mental activities. We in SLLC are ready to respond to that challenge and provide programmes and opportunities to help residents of South Lanarkshire remain physically and mentally active in later life."

Read all about it

PARK View Primary School, worthy winners of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Libraries Summer Reading Challenge, were presented with their trophy at a recent event in Rutherglen Town Hall.

Over 40% of Park View pupils took part. Head Teacher Maria Spiers was quite rightly very proud of this achievement.

She said: "As a school, we have had a really strong focus on reading for enjoyment and have actively promoted links with our local library, so this award was really appreciated by the staff, parents and pupils.

"We intend to continue our work in this area and hope to further develop reading engagement across the whole school."

Mrs Longmuir, class teacher said: "We are delighted that the children have taken up the Summer Reading Challenge in such great numbers and we are so pleased that our parents have supported this initiative."

And one of the winning pupils, Devyn Gamble said: "Reading all the books was lots of fun and I love our big trophy. I am very proud of our school."



"I HOPE THAT BY GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A PASSION FOR ROAD SAFETY AT AN EARLY AGE WE ARE PROVIDING THEM WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL LAST THEM ALL THEIR LIVES."





100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS...

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

● From the front page

South Park Primary School head teacher Ishbel Munro said: "We are delighted with our beautiful new, state-of-the-art learning environment and look forward to sharing many happy and exciting experiences with the children, their families and the community."

The £9million school in East Kilbride was built by Lend Lease on behalf of the council. It consists of eight classrooms, general purpose area, ICT suite and library, nursery, gym hall with stage and dining area. Externally a 3G pitch will be completed during phase two of the works.

East Milton Primary School and Nursery, in East Kilbride, was rebuilt by Kier Construction. The £6.8m building has eight classrooms and nursery accommodation and a range of flexible rooms, while pupils will be able to enjoy a 3G pitch after completion of phase two works.

Head teacher Lesley Callaghan said: "The new building will allow us to deliver Curriculum for Excellence in a first-class educational environment. We felt immediately at home and are absolutely delighted with our new school."

The imposing £9.2m St Leonard's Primary School was constructed by Lend Lease and includes 10 classrooms, a general purpose area, and library area with ICT throughout the school. Other accommodation includes a gym hall with a stage and a separate dining area.

TURN TO PICTURE SPECIAL PAGES 8 AND 9

The delighted head teacher, Des Timmons, said: "The new school is everything we hoped it would be and more. We have light flooding the classrooms and lots of flexible space we can use for teaching. The children especially love their new playground."

Pupils and staff at St John's Primary School, in Blackwood, are also delighted with their brand-new buildings. Head teacher Elaine Fitzpatrick said: "Watching our old building being demolished was a very sad time for us, but seeing our pupils' faces light up as they entered our new building was priceless."

"Throughout the building process, we have worked very closely with the schools modernisation team, and therefore staff and pupils have had a huge input into the design and furnishings of the school, meaning that we all have ownership of it... it is truly 'our school'."

The new £3.2m St John's Primary School was built by South Lanarkshire Council's Building Services and includes three classrooms complete with ICT, a general purpose area and a combined gym and dining hall. Externally the multi-use games area (MUGA) will be completed in the second phase of the works at this site.

Carluk's Kirkton Primary School was rebuilt by Lend Lease at a cost of £7.2m. Internally the accommodation includes seven classrooms and dining, library and IT facilities.

Head teacher Moira Meiklejohn said: "The new school is an exciting and modern facility to enhance learning and teaching, and both our school and local community will benefit greatly from what has been provided."

The ambitious Primary School's programme continues with Auchengray Primary and Libberton

Primary being decanted while their new schools are built.

The next schools scheduled to open will be completed during Spring and Summer of 2015: Bankhead Primary School, Rutherglen; Carnwath Primary School, Lanark; Muiredge Primary School, Blantyre; St Bride's Primary School, Cambuslang; and Woodside Primary School, Hamilton.



Right, from top: school meal time at St Leonard's Primary School, East Kilbride and pupils at work in St John's Primary School, Blackwood
Below: Pupils are delighted with the new St Mary's Primary, Larkhall



100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS...



10

BRAND NEW P



KEYDATES... KEYDATES... KEYDATES...

2004: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School in EK was the first modernised primary school

2006: Ballerup Nursery Centre was the first modernised standalone nursery centre

2007: The first four new secondary schools all opened in August 2007: Duncanrig, St Andrew's and St Bride's, Holy Cross and Lesmahagow

2007: Hamilton School for the Deaf was the first modernised additional support needs school

Left: Pupil from Kirkton Primary School, Carluke
Top: Delighted head teacher Lesley Callaghan with pupils at East Milton Primary, East Kilbride
Right: Elaine Fitzpatrick, head teacher of St John's Primary, Blackwood



SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS... 100 SCHOOLS...



100 PRIMARY SCHOOLS



KEY DATES... KEY DATES... KEY DATES...

2009: Our first integrated facility was St Athanasius' Primary School and Carluke Lifestyles

2010: The last of the 19 new secondary school builds, Lanark Grammar, opened in January

2010: Wiston Primary is the smallest school to be modernised with one classroom

2010: Crawforddyke Primary School was the 50th modernised primary school

2013: Mossneuk Primary School was the largest school built with 17 classrooms

2014: Five primary schools opened in August taking us through the 100 modernised primary school barrier

ry School



South Lanarkshire Christmas lights switch on

Join Radio Clyde's Gina McKie

as she hosts an afternoon of entertainment, games and giveaways in the run up to the arrival of Santa.

Children's favourite Postman Pat will meet the crowds at Hamilton. Traditional Christmas markets will attend all the events, except Rutherglen where a craft fayre will be hosted in the Town Hall. All markets will be open from 9am–5pm on Saturdays and 12pm–5pm on Sundays except Carluke which will be open from 3pm–6.30pm. The fun fair will also roll into Hamilton, Rutherglen, Cambuslang and Carluke.

All of the events will also feature performances from local dance and theatre groups, a festive sing-a-long and, of course, an appearance from Santa Claus.

There will even be guaranteed snow, as the switching on of the lights will trigger a fall of flakes from above! So why not come along to our free afternoons of entertainment in the following towns:

Lanark

Saturday, November 15th

Event starts at 2pm
Lights on at 5pm

Hamilton

Saturday, November 22nd

Event starts at 3pm
Lights on at 6pm

East Kilbride Village

Sunday, November 23rd

Events starts at 3pm
Lights on at 5pm

Carluke

Friday, November 28th

Event starts at 3pm
Lights on at 6pm

Rutherglen

Saturday, November 29th

Event starts at 2pm
Lights on at 4.30pm

Cambuslang

Sunday, November 30th

Event starts at 2pm
Lights on at 4.30pm



Lanarkshire towns and villages scoop Bloomin' Awards



WINNERS ONE AND ALL AS TOWNS AND VILLAGES SCOOP TOP AWARDS

A number of towns and villages throughout South Lanarkshire took part once again this year in Beautiful Scotland – previously known as Beautiful Scotland in Bloom – a competition run by the independent charity Keep Scotland Beautiful, in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Bloom Federation.

The Beautiful Scotland programme supports community groups across Scotland as they seek to improve and enhance their local environment and, here in South Lanarkshire, the council's Ground Services staff offer advice and practical help to the people in our towns and villages who are taking part.

The competition is entered by local authorities, Business Improvement Districts and volunteer groups representing their cities, towns, villages and communities. The awards are made to

recognise the efforts of local community groups and individuals in making their communities beautiful.

Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services, Stephen Kelly, said: "The initial focus of the campaign was on horticulture, and while that remains a key theme there is now also a focus on environmental responsibility and community participation.

"The council has, each year, worked in partnership with groups across South Lanarkshire and our Ground Services teams have been on hand again to give all groups involved in the competition a great deal of support with advice, ground preparation, transportation of plants and materials, provision of new barrier planters and increased watering during the run up to the final judging of the competition."

Local efforts to brighten up Lanarkshire have been rewarded with the presentation of two trophies and seven medal certificates.

Past winners of the Silver Gilt medal certificate and the Scottish Natural Heritage Award for Biodiversity, Brighter Bothwell this year gained the Small Town Trophy and Uddingston Pride won the Urban Community Trophy.

Uddingston Pride's Chair, Liz Wilson, said: "The people who look after all our green spaces and the streets of Uddingston do a tremendous job. We very much appreciate this support from the council's Grounds Services team and our grateful thanks go to them all. We look forward to our continued partnership."

In addition to these trophies other Lanarkshire entrants won the following medal certificates:

- Flourishing Forth (Large Village) – Silver Gilt
- Lanark in Bloom (Medium Town) – Silver
- Strathaven in Bloom (Medium Town) – Silver Gilt
- Stonehouse Brighter Village Group (Small Town) – Bronze
- Burnside in Bloom (Urban Community) – Bronze

John Frater of Keep Scotland Beautiful said: "I am delighted to present the awards and would like to congratulate all the winners on their success."

"The people who look after all our green spaces do a tremendous job"

Top: Gorgeous blooms in Uddingston helped win the Urban Community Trophy
Below: Groups from right across South Lanarkshire were recognised for helping to keep their communities beautiful



Athletes are attracted to Run, Bike, Run

THIS year's Hamilton Duathlon was a huge success with around 70 athletes taking part from all over Scotland in this run, bike, run, competition.

This was the fourth year of this popular competition organised by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's (SLLC) Sports Development team.

The course was both scenic and demanding with a flat run course around the Hamilton Mausoleum and a hilly bike course within Strathclyde Park.

Although it was almost the only wet day in September this year the rain was no deterrent to our competitors and kept them cool as they fought for position.

In the men's race the competition was extremely high and Drew Sharkely managed to push slightly ahead of Craig Hamilton on the final run to win by 44 seconds.

The women's race was also very exciting with Mhairi Duff who led the women's race by just under a minute and extended her lead in the second 5km run to win the race by 60 seconds.

Communities show spirit at international sport event

EUROPE'S biggest community sport event has encouraged people across South Lanarkshire to take part in a range of activities.



South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) supported Now We MOVE WEEK campaign which is led by the International and Sports and Cultural Association to raise awareness of physical activity to European citizens. The campaign's aim is to get 100 million additional Europeans more active by 2020.

Now We MOVE WEEK brings European-wide sport and physical activity events under one umbrella, and is a demonstration of the benefit and power that physical activity and sport can have on individuals and society as a whole.

To increase awareness and physical activity in South Lanarkshire SLLC hosted a number of MOVE WEEK events to encourage existing customers, members of the wider community, young and not so young, and our own staff too, to become more physically active.



When is a taxi not a taxi?



When it's a private hire...

THERE are two types of vehicles licensed to carry paying passengers in South Lanarkshire.

Some people however can get a bit confused between a taxi and a private hire car.

The main differences between the two types of vehicle are that:

- A private hire car can only pick up people who have pre-booked
- Taxis in addition to a pre-booked hire can be hailed in the street, sit at taxi ranks

or drive around their licensed area looking for hires

From a passenger's point of view the other main difference is in the way the fare is calculated:

- All taxis must have a meter which shows the tariff and fare as the journey progresses
- Private hires do not need to use a meter - some do but if not the driver must agree the fare with the passenger before the journey starts

Visually, there is another obvious difference - although private hire cars and taxis both have a rear plate, window and door stickers:

- Taxis must also have a 'taxi' sign on the roof of their vehicle and display a front plate
- Stickers also clearly state whether the vehicle is licensed as a taxi or a private hire car
- Taxi plates and stickers are white while private hire car plates and stickers are yellow

Furnishing young people with a future

AS if supplying furniture that lets vulnerable people build a home wasn't enough, one local company is doing even more good by helping young people into work in the process.

The Furnishing Service plays a crucial role locally as South Lanarkshire Council's main social housing furniture supplier, working, among others, with the elderly and women who are escaping from domestic violence.

But the company also has a comprehensive employability programme for school-leavers and young unemployed people.

Managing director Randle Wilson set up the firm in 1995 and explains: "It's tough for many young people, leaving school unsure of what they want to do with their lives. I didn't know what I wanted to do when I was that age, so I

understand where they're coming from."

The Furnishing Service (TFS) employs 197 people, including 14 apprentices, across three UK branches. The majority - around 150 - are employed in East Kilbride.

Its employability initiatives include apprenticeships in installation, administration and warehousing, and a comprehensive work experience programme, not just for school pupils but also for vulnerable young people and the long-term unemployed.

"In partnership with Jobcentre plus in East Kilbride, we provided more than 600 hours of work experience for 25 adults who had been long term unemployed," explains Randle. "At the end of the programme, we recruited 17, who remain with us."

Business admin apprentice William McCrear and carpet fitting apprentice Scott Dowie, who live in South Lanarkshire, came to The Furnishing Service via the Scottish Government's Employability Fund, which is aimed at young people who require some support prior to entering the world of work.

Both spent six weeks at TFS on a paid work placement and impressed Randle so much he offered them both full time apprenticeships.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do at school and when I left I didn't get a job, which got me down," explains Scott, 18.

"It's hard when you're trying to find work but nothing is happening. I'm pretty good with my hands, and I always thought I could do something practical, so coming here was great."



Top: Managing director Randle Wilson actively helps young people into the world of work

Left: Business admin apprentice William McCrear

Below: Apprentice carpet fitter Scott Dowie



He adds: "The training is all hands-on, so you get so much experience and all the experienced fitters are really helpful. You can have a bit of a laugh too, but you work hard and learn a lot."

William is just 16 and already an accomplished office assistant, handling stock, payments and liaising with local authorities across Scotland and England.

He says: "Work is nothing like school, it's a big change and it's not what you expect. Doing a work experience programme first is really helpful."

Randle agrees: "One of the best things about this is watching young people grow in confidence and self-esteem as they develop the skills and qualities they need to get on in life."

South Lanarkshire Council depute leader Jackie Burns met Randle and colleagues during a recent visit to their EK base.

He said: "It's inspiring that this team is helping very vulnerable people make a home, and at the same time offering job opportunities for local young people. That's a double benefit and deserves a lot of praise."



"Doing a work experience programme first is really helpful"



Once upon our time in a nursery

NURSERY pupils in Clydesdale had the chance of a lifetime to receive a book especially written for them by their future school and their family.

The Once Upon Our Time project ran in Forth Primary and Carnwath Primary, where families who had a child in the nursery were invited to take part in a series of storytelling and art workshops with professional storyteller Tony Bonning and visual artist Sarah Wakeford. The aim was to help the nursery pupils in their transition to primary school and they have now all settled in well to P1 life.

Primary 7 children (who are now enjoying life in secondary school) also worked with the families, storyteller and artist to produce a unique storybook personal to each nursery child involved.

Councillor Jean McKeown, Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Education Resources Committee, said: "This innovative project really was a partnership approach to learning. The stars of the project were undoubtedly the nursery and Primary 7 pupils as well as the head teachers, Pamela Easton and Ellen Wilson, and their staff."

Council builds new houses

TWO developments will see a total of 50 brand-new council houses built in East Kilbride.

At Baird Hill, in The Murray, work has started on 16 amenity properties and 14 family-size homes at the former Murray Primary School site.

Meanwhile, the development at Belmont Drive, Westwood, will see 12 amenity properties and eight family-size properties at the former Canberra School site, with work due to begin in December.

Pride of Lanarkshire



BRITAIN'S top ranked female badminton player and Commonwealth Games silver medallist, Kirsty Gilmour, has been honoured for 'making South Lanarkshire proud'.

Provost Eileen Logan paid tribute to the 21-year-old from Bothwell during a civic reception staged by the council in the town's library last month to mark her Glasgow 2014 success.

Inside the cauldron of the Emirates Arena, with huge

support from the home crowd, Kirsty swept her way to the finals without dropping a game.

And she credits that vociferous support for pushing her to an astonishing 10 points in a row to come back from 19-11 to overcome Malaysia's Jing Ying Tee in a stirring semi final.

Despite her silver success, Kirsty admits to feeling initial disappointment at the conclusion of the Games.

She went on: "It's the only medal you win where you have to lose to get it – It was actually really hard at the time and my overriding emotion was disappointment. But, with the benefit of hindsight, I am proud of my achievement. No matter what I will always be a Commonwealth Games silver medallist and I am extremely proud of that.

"The Commonwealth Games was also a great showcase for 'minority' sports

and hopefully showed more young people that you don't have to play football or swim to be successful in the competitive arena.

"I would urge anyone who is keen to just get out there and give it a try. South Lanarkshire is a great supporter of young athletes, through schools, centres and clubs and its facilities are second to none. You never know it might just be the beginning of a lifetime's journey."

Caring Dave is modest too

SOUTH Lanarkshire's Dave Wallace is Scottish Residential Child Care Worker of the Year.

The 56-year-old, who works at Rosslyn Avenue in East Kilbride, has been guiding and supporting children in care for more than 35 years, and was nominated for the accolade by three young men who have now moved on from care.

Dave's award is one of a number that are handed out by the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) at their annual ceremony in June, celebrating good practice in the provision of services for children and young people in residential care in Scotland.

Modestly, Dave chose not to attend the ceremony in person, insisting that the



accolade is one that he shares with the rest of the dedicated team based at Rosslyn Avenue.

He explained: "I was absolutely gobsmacked to hear that I had won. Although I didn't go and collect the award, I really do appreciate that this is an absolute honour.

"But, I do feel it's important to say that it is not just for me, but for the staff as a collective.

"I can say, without hesitation that, everyone who works here goes the extra mile to make sure the kids are safe and cared for."

Rosslyn Avenue is a residential care home catering for up to seven children in the Village, East Kilbride.



Top award for War Memorial

CHOSEN from 80 entrants from local authorities across the length and breadth of Scotland, Uddingston's War Memorial has come out tops and been voted Best Kept War Memorial in Legion Scotland's 2014 Champion of Champions category.

Maintained by the council's Ground Services team, and beating off stiff competition from a high standard of entries from around Scotland, Uddingston War Memorial has gained this prestigious award two years running.



Legion Scotland, a National Veterans' Charity, run this competition every year across Scotland. The aim of the competition is to encourage awareness of war memorials and a continued high standard of maintenance by local authorities.

As 2014 is the centenary of the start of WWI this year's competition is particularly poignant as the vast majority of names on war memorials are from the First World War.

Ian Forsyth, President of the Legion Scotland Hamilton branch said: "We are indebted to the council's Ground Services staff. This award is a wonderful testament to their hard work and I'm really proud of this achievement."

Tennis courts given new look

WORK has begun on a £139,000 project to upgrade the Strathaven Park tennis courts.

The newly upgraded courts will replace the ageing blaes courts and, thanks to the installation of floodlights, will provide the opportunity for players of all ages and standards to play all year round.

The project is being delivered by South Lanarkshire Council in partnership with Strathaven Tennis Club who have been successful in securing grant funding. The total funding for the project is £139,700 made available through South Lanarkshire Council's Renewable Energy fund, Strathaven Tennis Club Funds, The Round Table, LTA, Sport Scotland, The Rural Development Trust and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

In addition to floodlights, the upgraded courts will also boast a newly installed hard courted surface, a children's practice area, new nets and posts and upgraded ball stop fencing.



ROCC

THE golden era of rock and roll was also the golden era for music in East Kilbride.

During a large part of the 1960s there was only one place in the west of Scotland that consistently attracted the top chart stars – the Olympia Ballroom.

And during that golden period one man was responsible for booking the top acts for the town's premier stage.

Sandy McBain was ballroom manager at the Olympia having first worked at the five-pin bowling alley.

He was also among the first to experience the new venue when it opened its doors in December 1960.

He said: "When I first went a Sunday night was the time to go, it had a local band playing the hits from the charts, a jazz band and a soul band – it was an excellent mix.

"The thing was, because it was a Sunday, you couldn't actually dance with it being the day of the Sabbath!"

Following the initial interest and buzz the Olympia created, its fortunes began to wane in the early 60s.

Sandy explains: "Around the end of 1963, beginning of 1964, the business was in a pretty appalling state – the 1000-capacity ballroom was attracting maybe 40 punters.

"The mistake they were making was that they were still playing the Glenn Miller big band style music, but everywhere else was embracing rock and roll."

Sandy recognised the potential of the Olympia, firstly during his spell as a punter then working behind the scenes doing accounts for the bowling alley. Realising he needed more experience to pursue his dreams, Sandy spent a period working down south in variety clubs.

After a couple of years doing that, it was during a visit



K and Rollin

back the years

home that the new owners of the Olympia offered him the job as ballroom manager.

Sandy said: "I told the management I would be delighted to take them up on the job offer, but I needed a free hand – I recognised the place needed a total change of image and direction.

"The first act I booked as ballroom manager was the Kinks.

"The management were delighted at first, but their mood soon changed though when I told them the cost - £400!

"Straight away I knew my neck was on the line – I couldn't charge too much or people wouldn't turn up but equally if it was too cheap we wouldn't make any money.

"So I charged 50p at the door and you can imagine my relief when we had 799 people turn up on the night to see the Kinks – just one person short of paying their fee outright.

"It meant that between people paying at the door and the cloakroom and cafe takings meant we made a decent profit. At that time we didn't have a licence to sell alcohol otherwise we would have made a fortune!

"To me though, that first gig was a statement of intent and about really making the Olympia the place to be.

"We had pretty much most of the major acts of the time, people like Gerry and the Pacemakers, the Troggs, Manfred Mann and the Small Faces.

"Later on in my time – I had a few different spells working at the Olympia – we also had Slade, the Bay City Rollers, Status Quo and AC/DC.

"We also gave loads of local bands a chance to go on to bigger and better things.

"For me that golden period must have been between 1964 and 1968 – we were attracting huge names and the Olympia really was the place to be."

Sandy recently shared his experiences at an event at the Ballerup Hall – which is home to the Olympia's original mirrorball. Rumours have also persisted that the flooring in the Olympia was also ripped up and placed in Ballerup Hall but Sandy thinks that may be an urban myth.

The event, organised by South Lanarkshire Council's Seniors Together, was called Remembering the Olympia and no-one is better qualified than Sandy on that subject.

Sandy said: "I always got a lot of satisfaction from booking acts that went on to be massive stars.

"Of course I didn't get it right all the time, but I had more than my fair share of successes.

"One act I remember really hitting the jackpot with was Peter and Gordon.

"They were unknowns at the time but went on to have a huge hit with a song called World Without Love.

"Through my contacts in the music industry, I knew Peter was the brother of Jane Asher, who at that time was the girlfriend of Paul McCartney.

"I knew that Paul had written this song and given it to them – and when I heard the demo I knew it was going to be a huge hit.

"I managed to get them booked for £80 before the song was released. By the time they played a couple of months later, it was at number one.

"The Olympia was absolutely bouncing that night, I remember one of the local policemen asking me was I not nearly full?

"I said, yes, we are just approaching the 1000 capacity now – full well knowing there was already about 1500 people in there!"

The Olympia became better known to a new generation as a roller disco and was later demolished to become part of East Kilbride Shopping Centre.

Sandy said: "The old building might not be there, but the memories still live on."



"I KNEW THAT PAUL HAD WRITTEN THIS SONG AND GIVEN IT TO THEM – AND WHEN I HEARD THE DEMO I KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE A HUGE HIT"





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