

WINTER 2014
the

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

reporter



**SOUTH
LANARKSHIRE
MARKS KEY
MILESTONE AS...**

NEW-BUILD PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROJECT TOPS 100

8-PAGE PULLOUT GUIDE TO YOUR COUNCILLORS – **INSIDE**



Chatelherault and Calderglen Country Parks

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

Leisure Centres

Most Leisure Centres will be closed 24 - 26 December and 31 December - 2 January. Please check with individual centres for opening times.

East Kilbride Ice Rink

East Kilbride Ice Rink will be closed 25 December and 1 January.

Libraries

All libraries will be closed on 25, 26, 27 and 28 December and 1, 2 January with the exception of Biggar and Blackwood/Kirkmuirhill Library which will also be closed on 24 and 31 December. Please note however that Blackwood/Kirkmuirhill Library will be open on 27 and 28 December.

Sports Pitches

Ballerup Recreation Area, McKirdy, Tileworks, Bent and Lanark Synthetic Pitches will be closed 24 December - 4 January. Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds will be closed on 24 - 26 December and 31 December - 2 January. Grass/Blaes Pitches will be closed 22 December - 4 January.

Golf Courses

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

Museums

Low Parks Museum will be closed on 25, 26 December and 1, 2 January.

Lifestyles Centres/Community Halls

Most Lifestyle Centres and Community Halls will be closed on 25 - 26 December and 1 - 2 January. Please check with individual centres for opening times.

Cultural Venues

Hamilton Townhouse and Rutherglen Town Hall will be closed on 25, 26, 28 December and 1 - 4 January with the exception of 3 January when Hamilton Townhouse will be open. Lanark Memorial Hall will be closed 25 December - 4 January. East Kilbride Village Theatre will be closed 21 - 26 December and 28 December - 4 January. East Kilbride Arts Centre will be closed 25 - 28 December and 1 - 4 January.

Please check our website

www.sleisureandculture.co.uk

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



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
Leisure & Culture

www.sleisureandculture.co.uk

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

Closure of offices

All council offices will be closed on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 December 2014 and Thursday 1 and Friday 2 January 2015.

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

Festive period - Refuse and recycling collection programme 2014/15

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

Week commencing 15 December 2014

Black/Green bin and glass collection- there will be no change to collection days.

Week commencing 22 December 2014

Blue bin and glass collection - Collection will take place as normal on Monday 22, Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 December. There will be no collections on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 December, these collection will carried out as per details below.

Normal collection day

Monday 22 December

Tuesday 23 December

Wednesday 24 December

Thursday 25 December

Friday 26 December

New collection day

No Change

No Change

No Change

Saturday 27 December

Sunday 28 December

Week commencing 29 December 2014

Black/Green bin and glass collection - Collection will take place as normal on Monday 29, Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 December. There will be no collection Thursday 1 January 2015, normal collection on Friday 2 January 2015, collection details for Thursday 1 January detailed below.

Normal collection day

Monday 29 December

Tuesday 30 December

Wednesday 31 December

Thursday 1 January

Friday 2 January

New collection day

No Change

No Change

No Change

Saturday 3 January

No Change

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

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

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

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

Urgent registration arrangements

All offices closed in line with the closure of offices section detailed above. In addition, the Hamilton and Rutherglen offices will close at 3pm on 24 and 31 December and will be closed all day on Saturday 28 December. Arrangements for the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the delivery of other Council Services during the festive period will be displayed at the relevant offices.

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

Prepare for winter driving

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

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

For further information contact Road Safety: 01698 453620.



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Council Leader hails school new-builds programme as it breaks 100 barrier

Roads team find it snow bother getting ready for winter – 8&9

How the experts are making sure our roads stay as safe as possible

Boxing clever to keep out of ward's way – 10&11

Former boxer John McCluskey says great support keeps him fit to stay at home

Don't pay the price for buying fake Christmas toys – 12&13

Must-have toys could set you back £500 but don't risk 'saving' on fakes

Silver medallist Kirsty shines on and off court – 14&15

Britain's top female badminton player, Kirsty Gilmour is honoured for 'making us proud'

Learning valuable lessons in life is child's play – 16&17

It's not boot camp but pupils get a real kick out of learning from army dad's classes

Iconic buildings come of age – 18&19

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Clydesdale horse sculptures that popped up all over Hamilton have raised £67,000 for Kilbryde Hospice



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inside your reporter

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World War One remembered – 46&47



To mark 100 years since the outbreak of WWI we look at unique projects commemorating local people's stories



LOOKING TO OUR FUTURE

WELCOME to your Winter edition of The Reporter, in which you'll find information about the enormous range of services South Lanarkshire Council carries out on your behalf.

I'm particularly proud to be sharing a page with one of the area's real success stories - the council's schools modernisation programmes.

We took the decision some years ago that the single most important investment we could make in South Lanarkshire was in its children. These are our future generations, the people who we hope will keep the area thriving for decades to come.

That's why we set about a comprehensive new build and refurbishment plan for our schools. First, we completed the secondary school programme, and 19 were rebuilt or modernised to provide the best possible learning environment for pupils.

Now, as the following four pages show, we've hit a major landmark in our Primary School Modernisation Programme. At the start of this academic year we opened a batch of five new primary schools which took us over the 100 new primary schools mark.

Around 20,000 primary and nursery age children are now being taught in brand new or refurbished buildings. That means 81% of primary pupils are in new classrooms, and work continues steadily to complete the programme, an investment of more than £800 million.

In doing so we've created what is arguably the best schools estate in the United Kingdom, and we're already reaping the benefits in terms of improvements in exam marks. In the process, we've given a facelift to neighbourhoods across South Lanarkshire and given those communities access to fantastic new facilities.

Our school rebuild projects were a major commitment and investment, and one I think we should all be proud of. As such, they are a good example of some of the difficult decisions that sometimes need to be taken when planning for the area's long-term future.

Such decisions have never been tougher than in the current economic climate, but your council will continue to do the best it can to protect key frontline services and provide the best facilities and services it can for everyone.

The next stage of this is developing our plans and budget for 2015/16.

You'll find details of these at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

I am keen to hear the views of local residents on these plans and I'd invite you to express them at savings@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

**By Eddie
McAvoy
Council
Leader**



PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROJECT BREAKS 100 BARRIER

FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL'S £800 million Primary School Modernisation programme has hit another significant milestone.

More than 100 primary schools have now been built and nearly 81%, or approximately 20,000 of children in nursery, primary and Additional Support Needs establishments are now being taught in brand new or fully modernised 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





Let pupils take you on a guided tour of some of our new school buildings and see how they celebrated the opening of their new schools by using this link to our YouTube channel <http://ow.ly/DhMFG>

SPECIAL REPORT BY SARAH BURROWS

class IT provision throughout and a range of flexible accommodation which 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 £800 million investment is testament to this council’s ongoing commitment to providing our young people with the very best education

possible from nursery right through to secondary school and beyond.”

The five schools which together took the project over 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 £318 million Secondary Schools Modernisation Programme. All 17 of the area’s mainstream

secondary schools and 2 additional support needs secondary schools were transformed to meet the needs of a 21st Century learning environment.

South Park Primary School Head Teacher, Miss 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 £9 million school in East Kilbride was built by Lend Lease on behalf of the council. It consists of eight classrooms, a 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 £6.8 million building has eight classrooms and nursery accommodation and a range of flexible rooms. The school will enjoy a 3G pitch after completion of phase 2 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

- turn to page 6



- from page 5

are absolutely delighted with our new school!"

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

Head Teacher Des Timmons said: "The new school is everything we hoped it would be and more. We have lots of 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.

Headteacher Elaine Fitzpatrick said: "Seeing our old building being demolished was a very sad time for us, however 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, therefore staff and pupils have had a huge input into the design and furnishings of the school, so we all have ownership of it. It is truly 'our school'."



“Seeing our old building being demolished was a very sad time for us, however seeing our pupils’ faces light up as they entered our new building was priceless”

The new £3.2 million St John's Primary School was built by South Lanarkshire Council's Building Services and includes three classrooms complete with ICT, general purpose area, 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.

Carlisle'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. Our school and local community will benefit from what has been provided."

The ambitious Primary School programme continues with Auchengray Primary and Libberton Primary school decanted while their new schools are built.



KEY MILESTONE FOR FLAGSHIP BUILD PROGRAMME



The next schools to open will be completed during Spring/ Summer 2015. They are:

- Bankhead Primary School, Rutherglen
- Carnwath Primary School
- Muiredge Primary School, Uddingston
- St Bride's Primary School, Cambuslang
- Woodside Primary School, Hamilton



KEY DATES

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 need school.

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

DIGGING in DEEP..

A DEDICATED TEAM IS PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES TO THE ROUTES GRITTERS WILL TAKE OVER THE WINTER, FINDS JAMES DAVITT

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 that South Lanarkshire Council has responsibility for.

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 vehicle access roads to schools.

This means 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.

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."



for WINTER



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.

JOHN'S STORY HERALDS NEW ERA IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE **BY EUAN DUGUID**



FORMER Army boxer John McCluskey knows all too well the importance of staying on your toes.

From gruelling military bouts, surviving a peacekeeping role in post WWII Palestine to working as a bouncer in the Barrowland Ballroom in the 1960s, the 86-year-old great grandfather has never taken a step back.

Despite breaking a hip in a fall last year and living with a heart complaint, John, from East Kilbride, has maintained the

fierce independence that's driven a life less ordinary.

And that's thanks to the help of the Integrated Community Support Team (ICST), which combines the expertise of staff from NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council Social Work.

John, who was also a keen mountaineer, said: "I'm not the sort to idle and the thought of an extended stay in hospital after my fall really didn't sit well with me.

"Receiving support from the team, from the home care worker who helps with meals, a physiotherapist who has got me moving and the occupational therapist, who has equipped me with some aids around the house, has meant I've been able to stand on my own feet again.

John added: "I love having my pals round to watch boxing in the comfort of my own home.

"Family, of course, is everything and they regularly pop in for a cup of tea. The help I get from the team allows me these basic freedoms, something I've valued my entire life."

John's story and the support he's received from the ICST has also been

ICST EXPLAINED

The ICST has brought together nurses, physiotherapists and hospital discharge rehabilitation staff from NHS Lanarkshire with social workers, home care workers and occupational therapists from South Lanarkshire Council.

Medical care is provided by the person's own GP who links, when needed, with hospital consultants.

The ICST, which was piloted in East Kilbride and Strathaven, has now been rolled out to Hamilton, Cambuslang and Rutherglen, with Clydesdale set to follow early next year.

There's no ward



South Lanarkshire H&SCP's Chief Officer, Harry Stevenson

Kate Beagan, sheltered housing warden

John McCluskey

Billy Hales, home care worker

documented in a short film. No Ward Like Home has been showcased to leading health and social care professionals on the national stage as an example of best practice.

That development comes at a crucial time.

Across Scotland, and here in South Lanarkshire, the next year will bring changes in the way health and social care services are delivered with and for people.

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

In April 2015, integration goes live in local areas, led locally by the South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP).

To make that transition as smooth as possible, work on various key plans is currently underway, including considering the range of services that will fall under the partnership.

Harry Stevenson, who is South Lanarkshire Council's Executive Director of Social Work, was appointed Chief Officer of South Lanarkshire H&SCP in March 2014.

Harry, who will be ultimately

responsible for integrating all adult health and social care in the area, said: "Integration isn't about sorting things out or starting again. It's about understanding different professional perspectives, sharing existing expertise and coordinating resources.

"Indeed, there are already many examples of excellent partnership working underway in South Lanarkshire and John's experience, and the ongoing work of the ICST, exemplifies that."

Harry continued: "In wider terms, it's also important to note that integration isn't just about health and social care working together.

"It's also about listening to – and working in partnership with – those who know the local areas best, from the voluntary sector, independent sector, which includes care home and care at home service, to unpaid carers and people in need of support.

"Overall, like John's situation, integrated working aims to put the person at the heart of how they would like to live the life they choose."

● No Ward Like Home can be viewed here: <http://vimeo.com/97323984>

Integration

A new Frequently Asked Questions document has just been published on the integration of adult health and social care.

In April 2015, integration goes live here in South Lanarkshire led by the South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnerships (H&SCP).

So, what will that mean, who's involved and why is integration necessary?

Our FAQ has been written to offer a jargon-free explanation to these and many other key questions, including:

Will integration change the way I receive care and services?

Isn't the existing way of working sufficient?

What's happening now and what happens next?

The online version of the FAQ will be regularly updated as integration progresses.

South Lanarkshire H&SCP's Chief Officer, Harry Stevenson said: "The aim of integration is to provide a seamless response to everyone who uses health and social care services.

The FAQ charts how we intend to achieve that objective."

● You can access the FAQ by visiting this link: <http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/About/HSCP/Pages/default.aspx>

like home



Jean Cunningham,
generic support
worker and GP

Dr Iain
Hathorn



TOYING



MA J O R
Retailers
Argos and
Amazon

have unveiled a list of must-have toys for Christmas.

Kids' favourites for 2014 include Xeno – the interactive baby monster, Transformers and My friend Cayla doll.

Also high on the wish list are toys from smash hit movies Frozen and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

And if parents were to fork out for all toys on the list, they would have to part with close to £500 based on the recommended retail price (RRP) of each.

No wonder then that, in such difficult financial times, many hard-pressed parents look for alternatives.

Unfortunately, Trading Standards Officers fear that this factor will play into the hands of those selling fakes and forgeries.

And the team is warning all consumers to be vigilant as saving money could mean risking safety.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Community Services, Committee, explained: "There is no doubt that some of the top end toys could prove expensive, particularly with those families on a tight budget.

"We fully expect that lower grade copies of these will be made and sold at more affordable prices whilst still being passed off as the genuine article. The most common method for selling these is through the internet, and even reputable online names can unwittingly play host to such transactions.

"Manufacturers, retailers and consumer bodies such as ourselves are working together to keep the fraudsters at bay, but the risk posed by fake goods, particularly toys, remains. In essence, if a price seems too good to be true, then it usually is.

I fully understand the desire to save money at this time of year but safety should always be the first priority.

"Fake goods are often poorly manufactured and will not, in most cases, measure up to stringent safety standards. The biggest concern is over small parts which can become easily detached and present a choking risk to youngsters.

Paints or chemicals used might also not be within safe limits.

"As a general guideline it's worth remembering that the CE mark is the



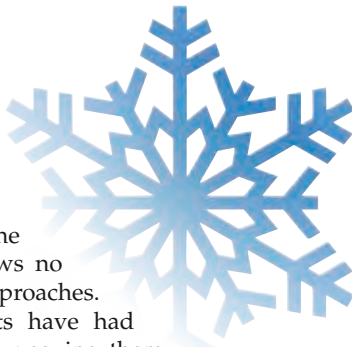
WITH XMAS

AS CHRISTMAS NEARS AND THE KIDS START MULLING OVER WHAT TO PUT ON THAT LIST - MAKE SURE SAFETY IS NOT OVERLOOKED. **LYNNE CARSTAIRS** EXPLAINS THE PITFALLS TO WATCH OUT FOR BEFORE SANTA ARRIVES DOWN THE CHIMNEY



© Roald100 | Dreamstime.com - Loom Band Bracelets Photo





benchmark for toy safety across Europe.”

Meanwhile, the fad of the summer – loom bands – shows no sign of abating as Christmas approaches. The brightly coloured packets have had children of all ages feverishly weaving them into complicated bracelets, but parents are being warned to be careful which products they buy as many do not comply with toy safety regulations. In addition, tests on cheap imports of loom band sets revealed some plastic charms contained dangerously high levels of ‘phthalates’.

The chemical is used to make plastics more pliable but it is also a known carcinogen and its use is strictly controlled, particularly in toys that could go in the mouth. The worrying thing is the charms are the bits that are most likely to end up in children’s mouths.

The legal limit for phthalates is 0.1%. However in independent tests 16 packets of the charms from unofficial box sets imported from the Far East contained more than the accepted level – with two having more than 50%.

Concluded Councillor Stewart: “We are warning parents to be vigilant about loom bands and only to buy genuine products from a respected retailer. Also look for a UK distributor’s address on the packaging as well as a CE mark.”

TOP TOYS Christmas 2014’s must-haves

● **XENO - THE CHEEKY INTERACTIVE BABY MONSTER** – from £79.99 Xeno has a wide range of movements and emotions and more than 40 different expressions. Interact with him, play a variety of mini-games or download the dedicated app.

● **SEW COOL SEWING STUDIO** – from £38 A revolutionary threadless sewing machine that’s perfect for a first time sewing experience.

● **TRANSFORMERS AGE OF EXTINCTION STOMP AND CHOMP GRIMLOCK FIGURE** – from £79.99 At almost 40cm tall, this Transformers 4 Stomp and Chomp Grimlock is ready to take on any enemy and can convert in just one step into a chomping dinosaur with light up eyes.

● **TEKSTA T-REX TOYS** – from £59.99 The bone-crushing dinosaur who responds to your voice, lights and sounds.

● **MY FRIEND CAYLA** – from £89.99 A doll who understands almost anything you say by using speech-to-text technology. Synchronises with your iOS or Android smart

device via bluetooth

● **LITTLE LIVES PETS BIRD CAGE** – from £19.95 Take your new interactive pet bird anywhere in their new portable bird cage home - it will respond to your touch, sing, chirp and even tweet.

● **KIDDIZOOMS SMART WATCH** – from £32.99 An easy to use watch with an intuitive touch screen with different analogue and digital watch faces to choose from, alarm, picture and video taking with in-built camera, stop watch and timer, three fun games, photo editing and voice recording.

● **SIMON SWIPE** – from £21 Swipe the lights to conquer the colours in this challenging Simon Swipe game. To be the champion swiper, just tap when you see one light, swipe when there are two, and swipe and reverse when the lights move clockwise and then go back.

● **SNOW GLOBE ELSA DOLL** – from £34.99 Another favourite from the smash hit movie of the year, Disney’s Frozen.

● **NERF DEMOLISHER** – from £33 Unleash motorised dart blasting and pump-fire missiles with the dart that fire up to 90 feet!

● **LOOM BANDS** bands – from 99p



Pics of Xeno – the cheeky interactive baby monster and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are reproduced courtesy of very.co.uk



Kirsty has the feather

COMMONWEALTH MEDALLIST HAS HER SIGHTS ON OLYMPIC SUCCESS

B RITAIN'S top female badminton player and Commonwealth Games silver medallist, Kirsty Gilmour has been honoured for 'making South Lanarkshire proud', writes *Lynne Carstairs*.

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.

When aged just 17 she was described by her school as 'one of the most talented athletes in the country'. Now a formidable force in the women's game, the former St Bride's Primary pupil, has risen through the ranks, bagging almost every school and girls' accolade available.

Currently ranked 17 in the world – one of only two Europeans in a top 20 dominated by Asian players – she now stands ready for the ultimate call up. To date, Scotland has only had one

badminton player represented at the Olympic Games and Kirsty is very much on track to double that total.

Qualifying kicks off next May, and Kirsty admits she is quietly confident of securing her place in Team GB: "All my focus now is on getting to that point in the best possible form. This will mean me stepping up a level in tournaments I compete in over the coming months."

Added to this is a gruelling training regime which reflects the athleticism and stamina required to play what is widely regarded as the world's fastest racquet sport at the highest competitive level.

She is also studying part-time towards a university degree in film-making and screen-writing, "for life after badminton".

However, the pressure of juggling training and education commitments pales in comparison to what she felt as part of Team Scotland at Glasgow 2014.

"I'll admit I found the Games very

stressful", she reveals. "I've been working towards this since Delhi when, aged just 17, I went along really just as a back-up for our top player at the time. I played in one doubles match, which we won, and came back pumped up and determined to be at Glasgow in 2014 in my own right.

"So I suppose it was a culmination of this anticipation, the pressure I put on myself, and knowing that Badminton Scotland needed the team to pick up at least one medal to secure funding, that I felt on me."

Nonetheless, once inside the cauldron of the Emirates Arena, with huge support from the home crowd, Kirsty turned that pressure into determination, and 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.

GOLDEN GIRLS VISIT ST. MARY'S

COMMONWEALTH Games gold medallists Kimberly and Louise Renick were at St Mary's Primary School in Hamilton as part of a series of athletes' school visits which are taking place across the country until the end of the year.

Through Game on Scotland, a Legacy 2014 programme delivered by a partnership between the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Glasgow 2014 and Glasgow City Council, schools the length and breadth of Scotland have been applying for the chance to receive a visit from one of Team Scotland's athletes.

The initiative, funded by the Scottish Government, will give pupils a valuable insight into the life of a professional athlete, providing inspiration for all aspects of their lives with focus on the importance of personal qualities such as discipline, determination, aspiration and sportsmanship.

Sixty schools in Scotland are benefitting from a visit,

with athletes including Steph Inglis (Judo), Sean Docherty (table tennis), Lee Craigie (mountain biking) and Vikki Bounce (hockey) already confirmed.

Louise Renick 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. We really enjoy contributing to the learning experiences in schools by sharing our skills, talking about failure and success and discipline as well as promoting values such as fairness and sportsmanship."

Gerry Campbell, general manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, said: "The success of Glasgow 2014 has provided a great

opportunity for a whole 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 to local schools and sports clubs by athletes from Team Scotland are highly motivational and South Lanarkshire welcome any opportunity to get involved in such visits"



ON COURT: Dominic Cluckie (11), Kittie Maslanka (10), Marc Gallacher (11) and Matthew Greaney (11)

touch

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 – the bronze is won in a third place play off. I know though that on that final day I came up against a formidable opponent (Canada's Michelle Li) who was at the top of her game.

"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."

For Kirsty, who first picked up a racquet aged 4, badminton is in her blood. Her dad Brian is a badminton professional and coach, and her uncle David, a Commonwealth bronze medallist.

"I wasn't pushed into badminton but came to it by the way of other sporting interests, including football which I also played to a high competitive level. But, if it hadn't been badminton, it would have been something else. Sport is such a part of who I am.

Kirsty described taking part in the 2007 International Children's Games in Iceland as a "fantastic, life-changing experience". And when Lanarkshire hosted the Games in 2011 she became one of the faces of the event.

"I have wonderful memories of ICG in Reykjavik back in 2007 – when I won doubles bronze aged just 14. It was an event that helped shape me, and increased my confidence in my abilities.

"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."

"It's the only medal you win where you have to lose to get it"



GETTING MOTIVATED OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM IS A REAL LIFE SKILL, AS ANNIE STUART FINDS OUT

TODAY'S lessons at St Elizabeth's Primary in Hamilton include spelling, sums and... shelter-building. There's orienteering too, sandwiched between playtime and PE, plus important information on how to defend your castle in the event of an attack.

But don't worry. It's not a new boot-camp approach adopted by South Lanarkshire schools – just an innovative way of teaching children useful skills (and having a bit of fun at the same time).

It's all thanks to a unique partnership between St Elizabeth's and parent Matt Cadman, who also happens to be a Lieutenant Colonel in the British Army.

After he visited the school to deliver a Remembrance Day talk, Matt was struck by the enthusiasm of the pupils, who wanted to hear all about his career.

He offered to run a physical activity session with the children, teaching them about map-reading, orienteering and survival skills. It was so successful, he now runs regular sessions and the children look forward to his visits with glee.

"It started as a bit of fun, something to get them thinking and running about outside," explains Matt, whose two sons, Thomas, 8, and six-year-old Richard, attend the school.

"One of my key objectives when in the classroom was to motivate the kids through a combination of mental and physical fun tasks which required them to work as a team. We built army shelters from ponchos, learned about the way ration boxes are made up and how you plan your food to make sure you survive in the wild, and played memory games.

"And it was fantastic. The pupils loved it, and the teachers felt they gained a lot out of it."

Primary one teacher Pamela Sullivan explains: "Matt's sessions are great. I was surprised at first how quickly and how



well the pupils worked together as a team to overcome assorted challenges.

"The point is they are having fun, but it's helping them with all sorts of skills, such as communication and listening."

Today's session includes a treasure hunt around the grounds for items Matt has hidden earlier in the morning. The children are shown doublers of all the objects - which include a tin of peas, a ribbon, a tiny plastic dinosaur and a wooden peg - for a minute, then sent off to find the partner of each in teams.

"Who's out of puff?" yells Matt, who runs after them all encouraging them to work together and collect the items as quickly as possible.

CHILD'S

PLAY



Back at the school, the items are poured on to the team tables to be counted and, after a brief steward's inquiry over the chocolate bars (one youngster in the red team claims he found six of them until outraged shouts from the yellow team forced him to admit he nabbed them off their table at the end), the yellow team is declared the winner and calm is restored.

"Soldiers are a doddle in comparison to schoolkids," grins Matt. "I'm astonished by how much energy children have. They are really up for a challenge, and in all weathers too.

"They have really taken to this and it's inspired them to do their own orienteering projects when I'm not here, which is great."

For Matt, 40 - who divides his time between home in Hamilton with his wife Julie, the boys and their little sister Kay, who is three, and work at army headquarters in Andover - being able to play a part in his children's education is essential.

"The children at St Elizabeth's really thrive and it's fantastic to be able to help out when I can," he says. "Education is a dual responsibility and teachers have to be supported at home. The kids need good male role models too."



“The point is they are having fun, but it’s helping them with all sorts of skills, such as communication and listening”

Matt studied geography at Aberdeen University where he joined the Officer Training Corps.

After completing his training at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, he served in Germany, Kosovo and Afghanistan, and is currently training to become a battalion commanding officer.

The children hang on his every word when he visits St Elizabeth’s.

Shelter builders Eilidh McLaughlin, 7 and Saarah Farrukh, 7, are dispatched to find a v-shaped twig for an anchor, while Cole Innes starts to unroll the poncho for the roof.

Aidan Kirkwood, 7, said: “I learned how to build a tent by putting string over the trees and I learned tents have to be low so they can’t be seen by the enemy.”

Rebekah Springett, 8, added: “I learned how to keep safe by building a tent and I learned about army food.”

Seven-year-old Iona Obrien agreed: “I tasted army rations - they were good.”

Jude Tennyson, 7, said: “I learned if you have no food you must eat what you can find to survive.”



Map readers Connor Wallace, 6, and seven-year-old Sian Williams learn about compass points – but the highlight is always the treasure hunt.

“They all love it, and they get a lot out of it,” explains class teacher Jane Hasson.

Six-year-old Gracie O’Callaghan sums it up. “This is lots more fun than being in class,” she beams.

IT'S been a year of celebration across South Lanarkshire as three of the area's most iconic buildings marked significant milestones. The council's headquarters in Almada Street, Hamilton – locally known as the County Buildings – was officially opened by HRH The Queen Mother 50 years ago. Meanwhile one of Lanarkshire's grandest and most admired buildings, The Town House, Hamilton, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its royal opening in July. And in Lanark, staff and users of Lanark library took a step back in time to celebrate the centenary of its 1914 opening.

IN A REPORTER SPECIAL FEATURE WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HISTORY AND MODERN DAY ROLES PLAYED BY EACH. BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS



A century of

THE Town House, Hamilton was officially opened by King George V and Queen Mary on 9 July 1914. The subject of a £9m refurbishment led by the council a decade ago, the Category 'A' listed building remains a prime example of baroque Edwardian architecture.

Funded in part through a £15000 donation from renowned philanthropist and library advocate Andrew Carnegie, plans for the Town House were initially a little difficult to agree on.

By the turn of the 20th Century the population of Hamilton and the surrounding villages had quadrupled in as many decades.

As a result the old town hall at New Cross, which acted as council chambers, town clerk's office, police station and court, was rapidly becoming unfit for purpose. Nonetheless, locals were against its replacement, and vetoed plans for a replacement on two separate occasions.

Consensus finally broke out around a proposal for a new site where Cadzow

Street meets Auchingramont Road. This would see the construction of a new public library, municipal building and town hall with room for expansion if and when required.

On the back of the library construction, successive plans were made by the council to build new municipal offices joined to the library building, mirroring the design.

One year later the grand Town House complex we know today was officially opened by the King and Queen.

Fast forward to the 21st century and a full scale £9m renovation project started in 2002. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Arts Council and Historic Scotland the work was complete by May 2004. Included were a new central library, stage, lighting and sound system, and arts wing. A wedding suite was also created. In total the building (above right, inset) now has 17 different levels, welcoming more than 200,000 visitors a year.

2014 also marked 50 years since the 'County Buildings' (above left) first

opened its doors and its award-winning design has ensured it remains one of Lanarkshire's, and indeed Scotland's, best-known public landmarks.

On its official opening by the late Queen Mother in April 1964 it made headlines around the country, with both the Glasgow Herald and Hamilton Advertiser among those making it front page news.

The much-anticipated building – a huge talking point in the town – had been three years in construction and stood 200ft tall on a massive 3.7 acre site in the town's Almada Street.

Dwarfing all around it, the building was hailed as a striking example of modern architecture, inspired by the United Nations building in New York and built by construction giants Laing – who had just finished building Britain's first motorway, the M1.

The stunning design by David Bannerman, of the Lanark County Architect's Department, was considered truly ground-breaking.



LANDMARKS



Edwardian style

IN LANARK the Centenary of the opening of the town's library was marked with a reception for the community and staff past and present.

The building (above right) was gifted to the people of Lanark by local philanthropist Charles Lindsay in 1914 and has been used as the town's library ever since.

Older residents recreated the glamour of the Edwardian era by creating a dazzling collection of period hats, with a prize for the best hat donated by Brooks, the well-known Lanark outfitters.

And the library's longest serving member Marion Donald was presented with a commemorative 'Golden Ticket'.

The Glasgow Herald's art critic, writing in its edition on the day of the official opening, hailed it as "modern architecture at its best", adding "one's first impression at close quarters is of unusual fineness and subtlety of proportion that belies the vast scale of the whole structure."

Internally, the building was ultra-modern too, with high-speed lifts, air conditioning and 1288 fixed windows on its north and south walls putting it at the cutting edge of technology.

The significance of bringing the seat of council power to the town of Hamilton was also recorded by the Advertiser's editorial column, which stated: "The greatest significance is the fact that the buildings are now located in the county town. The main advantage may prove to be a revival of local pride".

David Bannerman's grand design was granted protected status as an A-listed building on November 18th 1993 in recognition of its status as an icon of modern architecture.



TOWNS AND VILLAGES SCOOP BEAUTY AWARDS, WRITES MHAIRI ANDERSON

the **BLOOM** **TOWN** *greats*

A NUMBER of towns and villages throughout South Lanarkshire this year took part once again 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 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.



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

On presenting the awards, 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."

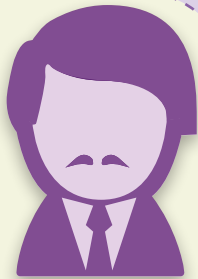
it's your area

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.



What do councillors do?

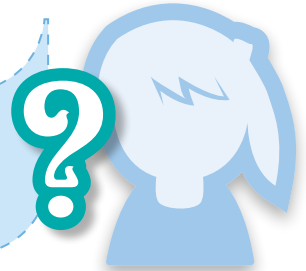
Councillors attend full council meetings and several committees. They're also responsible for appointing the Provost, the Council Leader and the Chairs and Deputies for each of the committees.

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.



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.

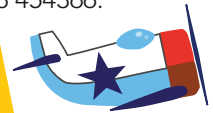
This aim of this style of voting is to ensure the result more closely reflects how people voted. With three or four councillors in each ward, wards generally have councillors from more than one political party.

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 or phone Members Services on 01698 454366.

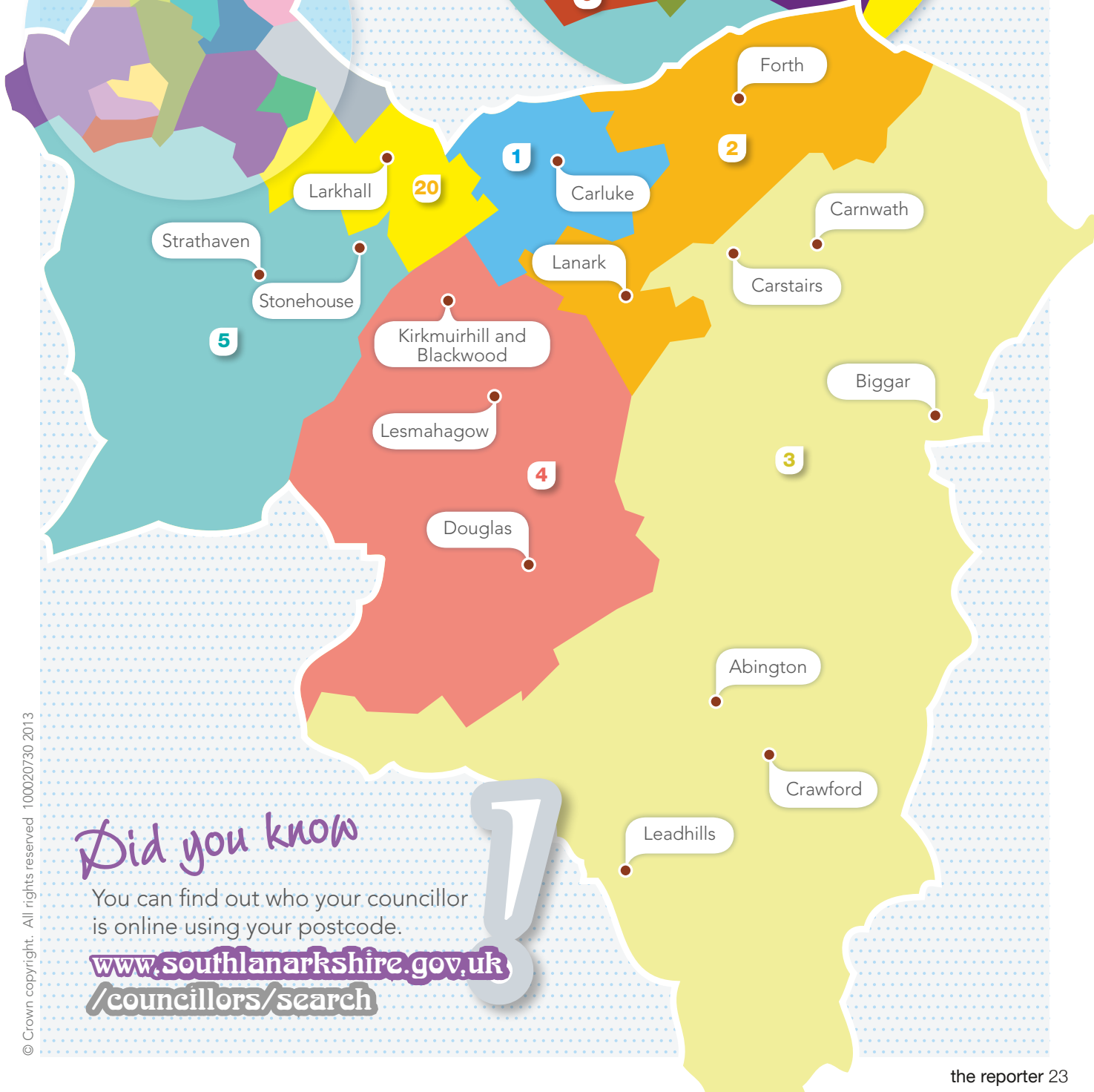
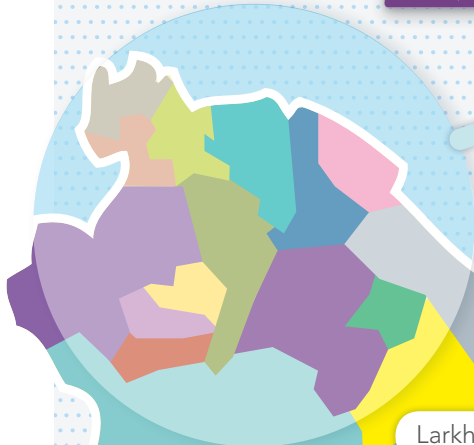
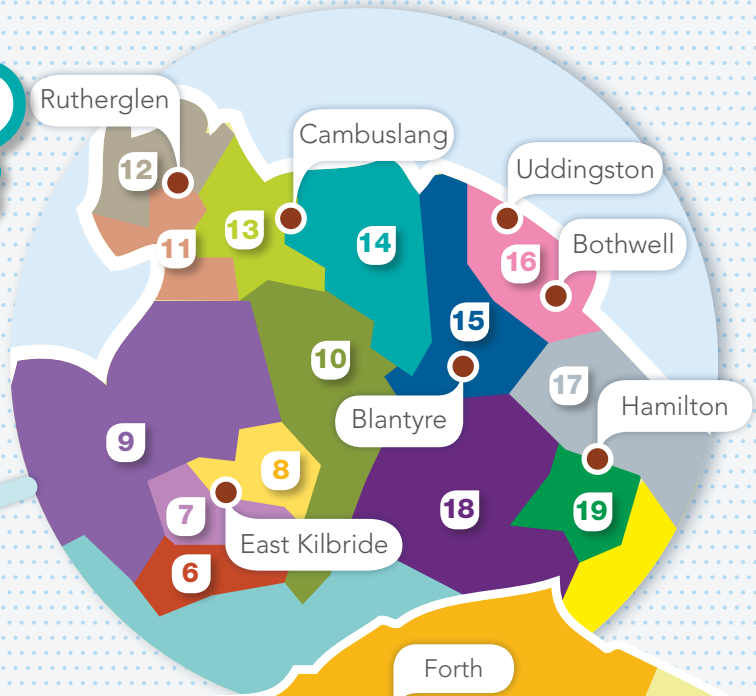
Your vote counts



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



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

1 Clydesdale West

Lynsey Hamilton

1st Wednesday
6.00pm to 6.30pm
Braidwood Village Hall,
Braidwood Road,
Braidwood



2nd Wednesday
6.00pm to 6.30pm
Crossford Village Hall,
Lanark Road, Crossford

3rd Wednesday
6.00pm to 6.30pm
The Tom Craig Centre,
Lawhill Road, Law

4th Wednesday
6.00pm to 6.30pm
Lifestyles Hall,
Carnwath Road, Carluke

Pat Lee

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,
Craigenhill Road, Kilncadzow

4th Monday
6.30pm to 7.00pm
Braidwood Village Hall,
Braidwood Road, Braidwood

4th Monday
7.15pm to 7.45pm
Crossford Village Hall,
Lanark Road, Crossford

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,
Craigenhill 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
Council Offices,
South Vennel, Lanark

4th Wednesday
6.00pm to 7.00pm
Kirkfieldbank Primary School,
Riverside Road, Kirkfieldbank

Catherine McClymont

1st Wednesday
6.00pm
McClymont House,
Gallowhill Road, Lanark



2nd Wednesday
from 5.45pm
Smyllum Resource Centre,
Smyllum Road, Lanark

7.15pm
Kirkfieldbank Primary School,
Riverside Road, Kirkfieldbank

3rd Wednesday
6.00pm to 6.45pm
Braehead Hall,
Carnwath Road, Braehead

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 Tuesday
7.00pm
Carnwath Town Hall,
Main Street, Carnwath



2nd Tuesday
7.00pm
Thankerton Hall, Thankerton

3rd Tuesday
7.00pm
Abington Hall, Carlisle Road,
Abington

1st Wednesday
7.00pm
Carstairs Village Hall,
Carstairs Village

Bev Gauld

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



1st Monday
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,
Birchwood 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

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



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

Gordon Muir

1st Monday
5.00pm to 5.45pm
Blackwood/Kirkmuirhill
Community Flat,
Hope Road, Blackwood



1st Monday
6.00pm to 6.45pm
The Fountain, Abbeygreen,
Lesmahagow

3rd Monday
from 7.00pm
Woodpark Primary School,
Priory Road, Lesmahagow

Alex McInnes

1st Monday

5.00pm to 5.45pm
Blackwood/Kirkmuirhill
Community Flat,
Hope Road, Blackwood
6.00pm to 6.45pm
The Fountain, Abbeygreen,
Lesmahagow

3rd Monday

7.00pm
Woodpark Primary School,
Priory Road, Lesmahagow



Jim Docherty

2nd Saturday

10.00am
Ally McCoist Centre,
Quarry Road,
East Kilbride

3rd Tuesday

6.00pm to 7.00pm
The Murray Owen Centre,
Liddel Grove, Murray,
East Kilbride

3rd Saturday

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

4th Saturday

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



5 Avondale and Stonehouse

Graeme Campbell

To arrange an
appointment phone
07825 583 905 or email
graeme.campbell@
southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Margaret Cooper

1st Wednesday

5.45pm to 6.15pm
Ballgreen Hall,
Glasgow Road,
Strathaven



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

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

10.00am
East Kilbride Arts
Centre, Old Coach Road,
East Mains, East Kilbride



3rd Tuesday

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

2nd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am
Mount Cameron Primary
School, Blacklaw Drive,
St Leonards, East Kilbride

9 East Kilbride West

Janice McGinlay

1st Monday

6.00pm to 6.30pm
Mossneuk Primary
School, Mossneuk
Drive, East Kilbride



2nd Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am
Stewartfield Community
Sports Centre, MacNeish Way,
Stewartfield, East Kilbride

Graham Simpson

To arrange an
appointment phone
07825 583 924 or
01698 454422.
or email 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

remember
no surgeries are held on public
and school holidays





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

11 Rutherglen South

Robert Brown

1st Wednesday
6.00pm
Fernhill Community
Centre, Auchenlarie
Drive, Fernhill



2nd Wednesday
6.00pm
Calderwood Primary School,
Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen

3rd Wednesday
6.00pm
Spittal Community Hall,
Carrick Road, Rutherglen

4th Wednesday
6.00pm
Loch Primary School,
Lochaber Drive,
Springhall, Rutherglen

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

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
6.30pm
Quigleys Hall,
Landemer Drive,
Rutherglen



3rd Monday
6.30pm
Bankhead Primary School,
Bankhead Road, Rutherglen

Denis McKenna

2nd Wednesday
6.00pm
Burnhill Sports Centre,
Toryglen Road,
Rutherglen



4th Wednesday
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

Clare McColl

2nd Thursday
5.00pm to 5.45pm
Cambuslang Gate,
27 Main Street,
Cambuslang



6.00pm to 7.00pm
Whitlawburn Community
Resource Centre,
Belmont Road, Cambuslang

Richard Tullett

2nd Tuesday
5.30pm to 6.15pm
Cambuslang Gate,
Main Street,
Cambuslang



6.30pm to 7.30pm
Eastfield Community Centre,
Dukes 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

Pam Clearie

To arrange an
appointment phone
07748 114 559 or
01698 454942
or email 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

15 Blantyre

Hugh Dunsmuir

1st Saturday
10.00am
TACT Community Hall,
Hillview Drive, Blantyre



3rd Saturday
10.00am
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall,
Stonefield Road, Blantyre

Jim Handibode

1st Saturday
10.00am
TACT Community Hall,
Hillview Drive, Blantyre



3rd Saturday
10.00am
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall,
Stonefield Road, Blantyre

John McNamee

1st Saturday
10.00am
TACT Community Hall,
Hillview Drive, Blantyre



3rd Saturday
10.00am
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall,
Stonefield Road, Blantyre

Bert Thomson

1st Saturday
10.00am
TACT Community Hall,
Hillview Drive, Blantyre



3rd Saturday
10.00am
Larkfield Neighbourhood Hall,
Stonefield Road, Blantyre

16 Bothwell and Uddingston

Maureen Devlin

1st Tuesday
6.00pm
St Brides Primary School,
Ailsa Road, Bothwell



3rd Thursday
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



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

Lynn Adams

1st Tuesday
6.00pm to 7.00pm
The Town House,
Cadzow Street,
Hamilton



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

Monica Lennon

2nd Monday
6.00pm to 6.30pm
Ferniegair Hall, Carlisle
Road, Ferniegair



6.45pm
St John's Primary School,
Dixon Street, Hamilton

4th Monday
6.00pm to 6.45pm
Whitehill Neighbourhood
Centre, Hunter Road,
Whitehill, Hamilton

7.00pm
Glenlee Primary School,
Anderson Street, Hamilton

Davie McLachlan**1st Monday**

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

**3rd Monday**

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

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

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**

5.00pm to 5.30pm
St Peter's Primary School,
Highstonehall Road,
Laighstonehall, Hamilton
5.45pm to 6.15pm
Udston Primary School,
Thornhill Road, Hamilton
6.30pm to 7.00pm
John Ogilvie High School,
Farm Road, Burnbank, 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

19 Hamilton South**Angela Crawley****1st Tuesday**

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

**2nd Tuesday**

6.00pm to 7.00pm
Trinity Parish Church,
Neilsland Square, Fairhill

3rd Tuesday

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

**Last Thursday of January,
March, April and September**

6.00pm to 7.00pm
Chatelherault Primary School,
Silvertonhill Avenue, Hamilton

**Last Saturday of February,
August and November**

10.00am to 11.00am
Cooperative Store,
Mill Road, Fairhill

Joe Lowe

To arrange an
appointment phone
07748 114 581 or
01698 454133
or email joe.lowe@
southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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

6.00pm
Chatelherault
Primary School,
Silvertonhill Avenue, Hamilton

**2nd Thursday**

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

3rd Thursday

6.00pm
Woodhead Primary School,
Woodhead Crescent, Hamilton

Stuart Gallacher**1st Thursday**

6.00pm
Chatelherault
Primary School,
Silvertonhill Avenue, Hamilton

**2nd Thursday**

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

3rd Thursday

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 Wednesday

5.30pm to 6.15pm
Quarter Primary School,
Limekilnburn Road, Quarter

2nd Saturday

10.00am to 10.45am
Parker Place Sheltered Housing
Complex, Parker Place, Larkhall

11.00am to 11.45am

Machanhill Primary School
(formerly known as
Glengowan Primary),
Academy Street, Larkhall

4th Monday

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

6.00pm to 6.45pm

Ashgill Community Wing,
Stewartgill Place, Ashgill

4th Wednesday

4.00pm to 5.00pm
Youth Surgery, Larkhall Academy,
Broomhill Road, Larkhall

4th Saturday

10.00am to 11.00am
Craigbank Primary School,
Glengonnar Street, Larkhall

4th Saturday

11.15am to 12pm
Machanhill Primary School
(formerly known as
Glengowan Primary),
Academy Street, 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
Craigbank Community Wing,
Craigbank Primary School,
Avon Road, Larkhall

4th Saturday

10.00am to 10.45am
Machanhill Primary
School (formerly known
as Glengowan Primary),
Academy Street, Larkhall
11.00am to 12pm
Quarter Primary School,
Limekilnburn Road, Quarter

Peter Craig**1st Monday**

6.00pm to 6.30pm
Machanhill Primary
School (formerly
known as Glengowan Primary),
Academy Street, 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 Primary School,
Glengonnar Street, 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 (formerly
known as Glengowan Primary),
Academy Street, 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

6.30pm
Orange Halls, 64 Muir Street,
Larkhall




4th Monday

6.30pm
Quarter Primary School,
Limekilnburn Road, Quarter

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

6.30pm
Dalserf Parish Church Hall,
Kirk Road, Dalserf

Key to political party

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

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

You can't buy your shopping on our website...

but you **can** report a repair to your council house



www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

➤ The routine stuff is important too, so if you have internet access, please use our online payments for rent, council tax, parking fines and more. It's available at 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	08457 406080
Out-of-hours emergency repairs and homeless	0800 242 024



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

The Ready Steady Gallop project organised by Hamilton Business Improvement District (BID) resulted in 25 life size fibreglass Clydesdale horse sculptures popping up all over Hamilton.

The horses were then auctioned off to raise money for the Kilbryde Hospice. The finished designs included a Cameronian soldier, a Roman warrior and a design based on the gardens at Chatelherault.

They were based at locations including Chatelherault Park, Low Parks Museum, Strathclyde Park, M&D's and The Regent Shopping Centre.

Among the artists who designed the artwork on the horses was Thomas Nisbet, who is currently on secondment to South Lanarkshire Leisure from the council.

His design was called Wildlife of the Clyde Valley and was on display at Hamilton Top Cross (Quarry Street).

He said: "It was great fun to be involved in the Ready Steady Gallop project.

"As you can probably guess from the name, I tried to include as many different types of wildlife as possible that you would find in the Clyde Valley.

"The project created a huge buzz in and around Hamilton."



art right on the nose

HORSES STATUE AUCTION IS A THOROUGHbred AFFAIR SAYS JAMES DAVITT



Come the night of the auction, Thomas' design was the second top seller, bringing in a £5000 winning bid.

The auction brought double celebration in the Nisbet household as it was Thomas' wife Angela's design of 'Cameron' which brought in the biggest bid – a whopping £7200 for the hospice.

Angela also designed the horse 'Duke's Garden' which netted £2000, meaning the couple's handiwork brought in more than £14000.

Thomas said: "Needless to say I'm absolutely delighted that my horse helped raised so much for the Kilbryde Hospice.

"I'm still in shock that it raised as much as it did: I was just relieved it sold at all.

"It was my first time at an auction and I was surprised at how nerve-wracking the experience was.

"In total I think I spent about a month solid painting the horse, so it's nice that all of the hard work paid off and raised so much for such a deserving charity."

The project was organised by the Hamilton Business Improvement District (BID) and Wild in Art with the Kilbryde Hospice the charity partner.

As well as generating money for the hospice, the idea behind the project was to try to generate extra footfall for Hamilton businesses.

The final total raised was £67,800.

"The project created a huge buzz in and around Hamilton"

Thomas Nisbet



STOP LISTEN

A LESSON
THAT WILL
LAST YOU
A LIFETIME

PUPILS from across South Lanarkshire have been finding out what a Junior Road Safety Officer's job is all about, writes James Davitt. JRSOs are pupils who have demonstrated a keen interest in raising awareness of road safety issues within their school.

Each school usually has two JSROs from either primary six or seven and they are either interviewed or specially selected for the job.

An open day was held at Chatelherault Country Park recently which introduced them to their role and helped provide the skills they require.

Organised by the council's Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity Team, this year 123 schools are taking part in the JRSO scheme.

This year 99 schools and 297 JRSOs attended the event at Chatelherault.

The scheme links to the "Curriculum for Excellence" for schools and the main duties of a JRSO are:

- Maintaining a notice board
- Running competitions
- Highlighting road safety campaigns
- Speaking at assembly

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

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

Pupils were also very excited to meet the new mascot 'Road Safety Simone'.

Representatives from Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, 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.

"Most schools should have a junior road safety officer now and if not it's easy for them to nominate someone.

"It was great to hear how enthusiastic the young people were about their new roles and I am sure they are desperate to share their knowledge with their fellow pupils.

"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 life.

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



AND LEARN



“I am delighted that we have so many Junior Road Safety Officers in place across South Lanarkshire”

Councillor Graham Simpson



Need to see a GP this Christmas and New Year?

We're open: **Monday 22 December**
Tuesday 23 December
Wednesday 24 December
Monday 29 December
Tuesday 30 December
Wednesday 31 December



Some GPs are open **Saturday 27 December & Saturday 3 January 8:30am-12:30pm.**

Check with your surgery for details.

GP practices are closed on **25-26 December and 1-2 January.** If you need urgent medical care and can't wait till your GP surgery is open, call **NHS 24 on 111.**

When you're ill, do you know who to turn to?

For more advice and information, visit the NHS Lanarkshire website:

www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/services/know-who-to-turn-to

SELF CARE

For hangover, grazed knee, sore throat, coughs & colds keep a well-stocked medicine cupboard



PHARMACIST

Your pharmacist can offer advice on coughs and colds, indigestion, constipation, aches and pains

DENTIST

For check ups, routine care and emergency appointments



OPTOMETRIST

Lanarkshire's Eye Health Network Service (LENS) treats eye problems, call 08453 130 130 for more details

GP

For conditions including vomiting, ear pain, sore tummy and back ache



OUT OF HOURS

If you are too ill to wait until your GP opens then contact NHS 24 on 111

MINOR INJURIES

For cuts, burns and suspected broken bones, visit services at Hairmyres, Monklands, Wishaw, Kello & Lady Home



A&E / 999

For suspected stroke or heart attack, serious illness or injury

THE HIGHS OF RECYCLING

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

The 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 who live in flatted properties will receive a new, white recycling bag and an individually numbered blue recycling bin, or they'll get 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.

CommonSense is a reminder that tidy means safe

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 there are not just aesthetic reasons for keeping communities uncluttered by rubbish – they are also safer to live in, and the campaign aims to remind residents of the dangers that can be avoided.

Housing Officers carry out regular visits to blocks of flats where the Council is the landlord and/or is the factor to ensure that common areas are kept clear to make certain there is no danger to residents and visitors, including the risk of fire.

As part of these visits, officers ensure that common areas are tidy, stairways and passageways are clear of any blockages and residents are properly disposing of household rubbish. Rubbish that is discarded carelessly can be set on fire and put property and residents at risk. This is especially so in blocks of flats and common and shared areas such as bin stores and drying areas, and could also cause an unseen obstruction in a smoke-filled environment in the event of a fire.

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 on wheelie bins and refuse vehicles.



SENSIBLE MESSAGE: Helping launch the CommonSense campaign in East Kilbride are (left to right) Station Manager Andy Watt, Inspector Mark Leonard and, from South Lanarkshire Council, Area Services Manager Donald Gray, Waste Officer Bob Black, Waste Assistant Michael Whiteside and Driver David Henderson.



THE ICE GIRLS





DISNEY DOES IT
AGAIN... AS ONLY
DISNEY CAN. **LYNNE
CARSTAIRS** FINDS
OUT WHY CHILDREN
ARE SO ENCHANTED

IT'S the Disney© animation that has taken the movie world by storm – and captured the imaginations of millions of children in the process.

'Frozen' – inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale 'The Snow Queen' – tells the story of Anna, a fearless princess, who along with a young iceman, his pet reindeer, and Olaf the clueless snowman sets off on a journey to find her sister, Queen-elect Elsa.

The icy powers Elsa has spent her life trying to conceal have finally been revealed and she banishes herself to a spectacular frozen kingdom. In the process, she also traps her people in an eternal winter.

Since its release late last year, a whole army of little Anna and Elsas have emerged with young girls in particular lapping up every moment of the icy tale.

Costumes are selling out across the country and Anna and Elsa dolls are set to top the most wanted list this Christmas.

Little wonder then that when South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) put on an 'Anna and Elsa' storytelling and singalong event in Cambuslang library recently, the sessions sold out within hours.

Three children's assistants from the Cambuslang library cluster – Anne-Marie McKenzie of Cathkin library, Debbie Millar of Rutherglen, and Claire Cameron who organised the event at Cambuslang – took on the roles of Anna, Elsa and the Ice Queen respectively.

Together they enchanted more than 200 children and their parents in one of the most successful events ever staged in the area.

Explained Maria Moran, Team Leader at Cambuslang: "We have never seen anything quite like it, from the initial selling out of

"So many young minds have been captured by the story of this movie, which is based on a much-loved fairy tale"

tickets, to the wonderfully dressed children and parents who came along. It was a wonderful experience for all of us."

The event started with a singalong warm-up, followed by a reading to the captivated young audience of a chapter of the story.

Excitement levels soared further as the much-loved characters appeared and danced along with the children as they sang the movie's biggest hits 'Do You Want To Build A Snowman' and 'Let It Go'.

Afterwards 'Ice Queen' Claire read the final chapter of the story before some refreshments and a chance for every child to have their photograph taken with the characters.

Concluded Maria: "So many young minds have been captured by the story of this movie, which is based on a much-loved fairy tale.

"We wanted to harness some of that enthusiasm and return to the simple pleasure of telling the story, where the written word fires the imagination."

NEW STRATEGY

ADDS+UP



A GREAT PLUS AS NEW SCHEME AIDS LEARNING AT ALL LEVELS, SAYS **SARAH BURROWS**



An innovative new numeracy strategy was launched recently in South Lanarkshire which will help to deliver the highest quality learning and teaching experiences in numeracy for all learners.

The launch is the culmination of more than two years' work by a range of schools and partner agencies, working collaboratively to learn from best practice throughout the council area.

From nurseries to primary and secondary schools right through to youth services and adult learning, all were included to ensure that the new strategy met the needs of all learners in the South Lanarkshire.

The strategy provides information on the importance of numeracy in everyday life and in the workplace, as well as lesson plans and case studies to support schools, nurseries, adult learning establishments and youth groups in addressing this key aspect through the curriculum. It will give a strong focus on delivering numeracy as a means of engaging, challenging

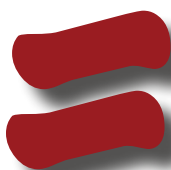


and motivating all learners in order to increase their levels of achievement.

A theme of the strategy is to make sums fun. Teachers are encouraged to use a range of technology and active learning to ensure that maths really resonates with pupils and encourages them to enjoy numeracy on a regular basis.

Councillor Jean McKeown, Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Education Resources Committee said: "We want learners of all ages to see the benefits that arise from having good numeracy skills. We want to encourage everyone to improve their numeracy skills through innovative teaching and learning and to show how sums can be fun.

"It pools together best practice from throughout South Lanarkshire and beyond and provides schools and other establishments with one document that focuses positively on developing numeracy skills."



FEEDBACK from residents has led to a new and improved Community Warden service being created, writes **Andy Livingstone**.

The opinions of local people and a review of the service have seen changes and improvements being made to produce an enhanced, quality service with greater flexibility to respond to community concerns.

The service now has two distinct warden roles working a variety of shift patterns to provide cover seven days a week, including working until 3am on Thursday to Sunday nights.

Investigative Support Wardens gather evidence in relation to anti-social behaviour, with the assistance of two new mobile CCTV vehicles.

In June this year, the team supported the Quad Bike initiative launched in Larkhall in partnership with Police Scotland and other services from South Lanarkshire Council.

The campaign helped to promote the safe use of quad and trail bikes and highlighted that it is illegal to ride any petrol-driven machine on the road unless you have a driving licence.

More recently the team worked in partnership with Police Scotland and Glasgow Community Safety Partnership to tackle cross-boundary issues between Fernhill and Castlemilk.

A temporary CCTV unit was installed in the area and, with the

WE'RE WATCHING TO HELP YOU

PUBLIC OPINION PROMPTS A REVAMPED SERVICE



Anyone who would like more information about these events or about the Community Warden Service, or who would like to report a complaint about anti-social behaviour, can contact Joanne Thomson on 0141 584 2608 or, alternatively, can use the Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline, 0800 389 1105.

additional support of the CCTV vehicles, this enabled Police Scotland to take appropriate action against certain individuals, and helped to reassure local residents that positive action was being taken.

The Estate Wardens continue to be the eyes and ears of the community, patrolling 'hot spot' areas across South Lanarkshire and providing support to local residents. Additionally they now have powers to issue fixed penalty notices for littering and dog fouling, and these powers are used in a targeted approach based on specific intelligence and information received.

This proactive environmental role will actively contribute to creating safe and attractive communities right across South Lanarkshire and will complement the service already provided by Environmental Services.

The team is equipped with body-worn CCTV to gather information and evidence as part of this new role.

The team actively engages with local communities by attending a variety of events and fun days to promote the services available to tackle anti-social behaviour and discuss any concerns people may have.

We continue to review our service by carrying out consultations with local residents each year. 'Positive Communities' events are held annually across South Lanarkshire where local residents are invited to give their views on the services available to tackle anti-social behaviour.



ROCK & roll

JAMES DAVITT FINDS OUT HOW SANDY HAD A BALL IN THE GOLDEN ERA OF MUSICAL HITS

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 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."





“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”

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.”

THE £1.13BN 'CITY DEAL' MEANS BIG INVESTMENT FOR SOUTH LANARKSHIRE



Depute Leader Jackie Burns signs the City Deal on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council. Left to right: Greg Clark, Minister for Cities, Danny Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Councillor Jackie Burns and Derek Mackay, Local Government and Planning Minister.

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

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 Kibride. 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 back in August by Danny Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Greg Clark, Minister for Cities, Derek Mackay, Local Government and Planning Minister and local council leaders.

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

Greg Clark, Minister for Universities, Science and

Cities, 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.

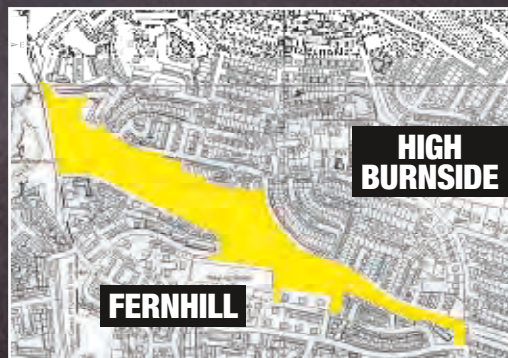
It is estimated that up to 29,000 jobs may be created and there could be additional private sector investment in the region of £3.3 billion.

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.



OPERATION BYPASS





A drive for

CLEAN AIR

VEHICLE emission testing is undertaken throughout South Lanarkshire to help improve the quality of the air we breathe.

Fortunately overall air quality in our area is good but as exhaust emissions are recognised as one of the major causes of poor air quality, the council's environmental health officers are carrying out a series of roadside tests as part of their regular review of the situation.

Our trained technicians are carrying out a series of roadside vehicle emissions tests throughout South Lanarkshire.

An initial quick test will take no longer than 10 minutes. However, should the vehicle fail this first test then a full test may be undertaken.

This should take no more than 30 minutes in total. If your vehicle fails the full formal test then you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty (£60 rising to £90 after 28 days).

However the fine will be withdrawn if you can demonstrate within 14 days that the defect in the vehicle has been corrected and that emissions from the vehicle now comply with the law.

Vehicle emission testing is a basic aspect of the MOT test, however faults and defects that cause harmful emissions can develop in less than 12 months. It is therefore essential that your vehicle is properly serviced and maintained throughout the year. Major pollutants from petrol and diesel engines include carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, smoke (particulate matters) and ozone. These pollutants can exacerbate existing medical conditions. Air pollution can also irritate the eyes, nose and throat and reduce resistance to colds and other illnesses.

Air pollution can be especially harmful to the very young and the very old. It is therefore in all of our interests to make efforts to improve the air we breathe.

As a motorist there are a number of measures you can take to reduce pollution from your vehicle. These measures

include:

- Make sure the vehicle is regularly maintained - check the tuning, emission controls and tyre pressures
- Don't make unnecessary journeys - short trips use a lot of fuel (especially if the engine is cold), so walk, cycle or use public transport more often
- Only use air conditioning or climate control when you need it - these systems use additional fuel
- Drive slowly - driving slower than 60mph will reduce emissions, save fuel and save you money
- Drive gently - hard acceleration and sudden stops increase fuel consumption
- Switch off the engine - if you are stuck in traffic for more than a minute turn the engine off
- Don't engine idle - switch the engine off while waiting to pick up from school, sports activities, shopping etc

The decisions we make about how we look after our vehicles, how we drive our vehicles and the alternative travel choices that we make will have an impact on our air quality. Even these small changes could help reduce pollution. More advice on air quality can be found at <http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/> which provides up to date data regarding air quality in South Lanarkshire as well as throughout Scotland. You can also register with the free 'know and respond' service at this website which will allow you to receive air quality alerts. This can be particularly useful to those suffering respiratory or cardiovascular conditions.

- **Additional advice can be obtained from South Lanarkshire Council's Fleet and Environmental Services - please email customer.services@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or phone 0303 123 1015.**



LEGO® A LAND OF



THE LEGO® Brick City exhibition at Low Parks Museum was a major success, attracting thousands of adults and children to the Hamilton attraction.

Fans of all ages marvelled at the intricacy of 60 stunning architectural scale models of major landmarks and iconic global images – including the town’s Mausoleum and Low Parks Museum itself.

All were painstakingly recreated by Edinburgh-based artist Warren Elsmore.

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.

As well as marvelling at the construction, there was also plenty of opportunity for young minds to build their own masterpieces at hands-on stations, on the LEGO® mini figure trail and in the Brick City big quiz.

The exhibition – which was free to enter for anyone with ACE membership – visited Hamilton for seven weeks as the last stop before heading to London.

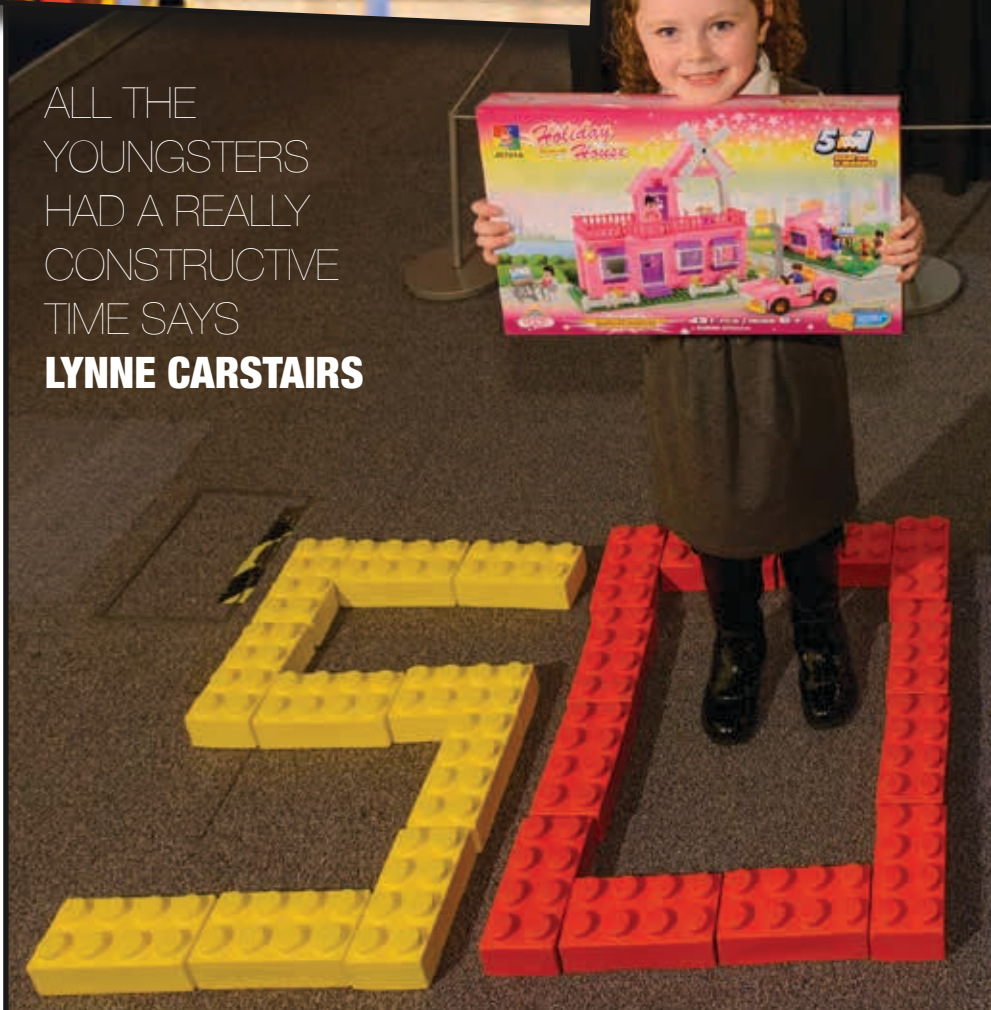
There was a special surprise for grandmother Rene Rigby, who had the bonus of being the exhibition’s 5000th visitor.

Mrs Rigby went along with grandchildren Abbie and Alexander, (main picture) cousins who are both 6, during the school October week to enjoy one of the most successful events staged by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

The youngsters, who attend Kirkton Primary School, were delighted to pick up a construction playset each from Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Board Councillor Hamish Stewart, to mark the milestone event. The family will also enjoy a complimentary lunch in the cafe when they next visit.

Mrs Rigby, from Morningside, near Wishaw said: “I was delighted to be the 5,000th visitor and my grandchildren loved their prizes. Hats off to everyone involved at Low Parks for giving us a day out the whole family could enjoy.”

Concluded Councillor Stewart: “The



ALL THE
YOUNGSTERS
HAD A REALLY
CONSTRUCTIVE
TIME SAYS
LYNNE CARSTAIRS

Brick City tour has been one of the most successful exhibitions ever staged by SLLC and we are delighted to have welcomed so many thousands through the door at Low Parks Museum.

“The appeal of LEGO® is universal

and adults and children alike have been fascinated by the amazing constructions and equally keen to get in to build a masterpiece of their own. We are proud and honoured to have been part of the tour.”

IMAGINATION



As well as marvelling at the construction, there was also plenty of opportunity for young minds to build their own masterpieces

Furnishing

new jobs

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

ANNIE STUART FINDS A COUNCIL-BACKED COMPANY MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

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."

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: "I have no doubt that William will be a top accountant one day, and Scott will be running his own carpet business. 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 East Kilbride 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."



"It's tough for many young people, leaving school unsure of what they want to do with their lives."

Randle Wilson



"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."

Scott Dowie



"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."

William McCrear

Could you be a permanent *FOSTER CARER?*



WHEN you think of foster care what do you imagine, asks Andrew Thompson? For many people the answer to that question is caring people who provide a safe, short term home for a child or children. But did you know there is also a need for permanent foster carers?

'R', a full-time worker with South Lanarkshire Council, welcomed a 12 year old child into her home some seven years ago on a permanent fostering basis after deciding, along with her existing family, that they wanted to foster and this was the option that suited them best.

She said: "I knew that permanent foster homes were needed and we felt as a family that going ahead on that basis would mean that the young person coming into our lives could fully integrate with our routines and really become part of the family – it just made sense for us.

"I know some people wonder why children might be put forward for a permanent placement rather than adoption and there are really a number of reasons. It might be that they are a bit older and so less likely to be adopted. They may still have a relationship with one or both birth parents and not want to lose that,"

"However, what really matters is that you can provide a good environment for a young person to grow to being an adult and form a bond that can help them as they make their own way in the world."

With Permanent Foster Care the young person, once they reach the

right stage in their life, will generally move to a more independent status where the foster parent can become a Supported Carer and the young person will receive their own funding making them financially independent but remaining in the family home.

R said: "The staged move to full independence is an important process and I think it can really make a huge difference to that young person's chance of success as they set off on their own in life.

"Being a Permanent Foster Carer has been, and is, hugely rewarding but I would encourage anyone thinking about it to make sure to consider what it means to be offering that permanent home to a child until they reach adulthood.

"Our own boys were 10 and 12 years older than the child we fostered, who was 12 when he came to us, and that does mean a return to family holidays when you might be starting to get opportunities for breaks without the children.

"However it is possible to plan for that and to have respite arrangements in place with, perhaps, another family which can give you space and provide an important second, safe home for the child."

● **There are currently a number of children aged more than eight in South Lanarkshire for whom Permanent Foster Care provides the best option. If you would like to find out more contact the Family Placement Team familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or by telephone 0303 123 1008**

SIBLING THRIVINGLY

ANYONE with more than one child knows that sibling rivalry is a very real phenomenon but that the close family bond between brothers and sisters is strong and important. That bond lies behind the decision to focus National Adoption Week 2014 (3-9 November) on the theme of Siblings.

South Lanarkshire's Adoption and Fostering Manager Ada Niddrie said: "The choice of Siblings as this year's theme

for National Adoption Week is welcomed. The great majority of the adoptions we undertake involve a single child but we do aim to keep brothers and sisters together when they are being placed for adoption and are always keen to speak to people who would be able to offer a place in their family for more than one child."

The Family Placement Team work year round uniting children and young people with the

families or individuals that can offer them a safe and caring place to call home. Events like Adoption Week and Fostering Fortnight provide an important opportunity to talk about their service and encourage people to find out more.

Ada continued: "Our team work very hard with people who are considering adoption to ensure there is a good match with the child or children, and have repeatedly found the

families we have helped put together tell us that while the adoption process seemed a daunting task at first, it is a worthwhile and beneficial experience that they were guided through to achieve the best result."

If you want to find out more about adoption or fostering the team can be contacted by email: familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or by telephone 0300 123 1008.



“It was really great and I was able to see and hold the medals awarded to the Captain Murray”



THE LOCAL HEROES

LEST WE FORGET: **LYNNE CARSTAIRS** DISCOVERS SOME UNIQUE PROJECTS WHICH

HANGING in the entrance hall of Hamilton Grammar School are memorials commemorating former pupils and staff who were killed in the two World Wars.

These daily reminders of generations of sacrifice got art teacher June Mackenzie thinking.

In this year which, marks 100 years since the outbreak of World War 1, why not research the lives of the men commemorated there and create an individual artwork based on the life and death of each?

June explained: “The basic idea started to gel and from then on the WWI Art Project was born. Before we knew it we easily had 79 pupils volunteer to work, in their own time, on researching the stories of the 79 men listed on the school’s First World War memorial.

“Each pupil has a story, to tell. Initially using words and then, as they understand each soldier’s story this will be translated in many styles and techniques, culminating in a respectful tribute to each of the men who lost their lives.

“We have also been working closely with South

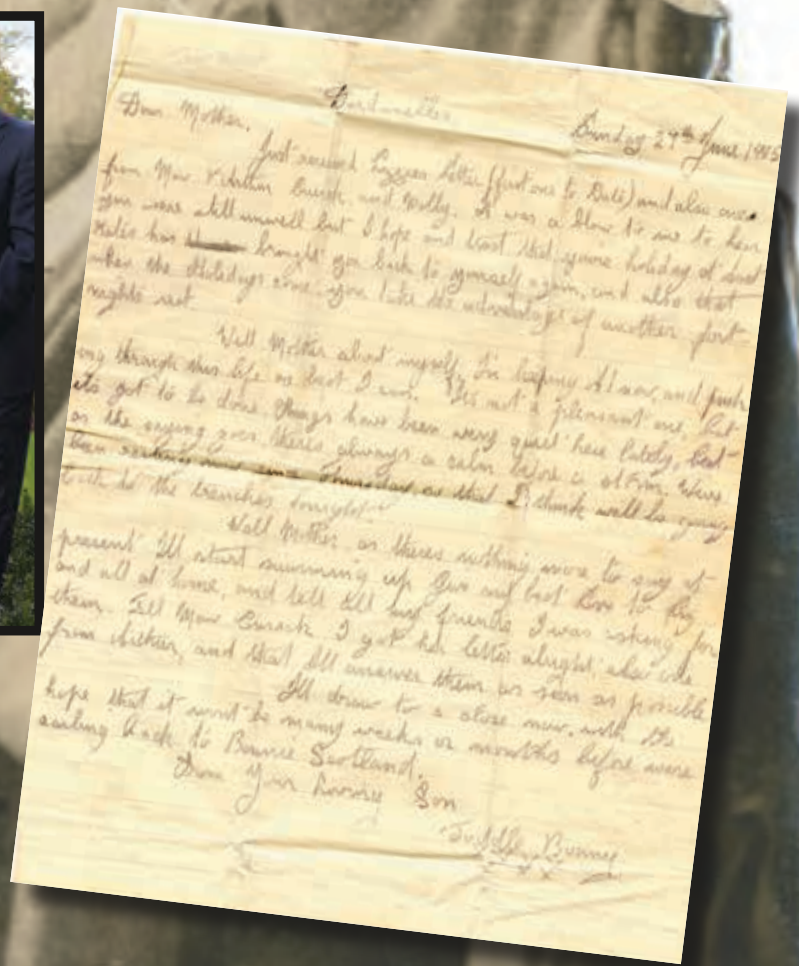
Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture’s museums staff who have been on hand to help the pupils with their research into men from The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Lanarkshire’s local infantry regiment whose collection can be seen on display at Low Parks Museum in Hamilton.”

In fact SLLC’s own project ‘Local Heroes – the untold stories of The Cameronians in their own words’ was recently awarded £68,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

And it was this award that enabled the Arts Development and Libraries and Museum teams to work with local schools and community groups to bring to life letters and personal diaries of the men who served in the Cameronian regiment during WWI

Gerry Campbell, General Manager of SLLC, said: “Our Museum Service holds a vast collection of letters and diaries from officers and soldiers of The Cameronian (Scottish Rifles) Regiment.

“The records, which have been painstakingly transcribed by an army of volunteers, provide a picture



WILL HELP SOUTH LANARKSHIRE MARK THE CENTENARY OF WORLD WAR ONE

of individual soldiers' experiences of WWI and how it impacted on them and their families. We hope that through this project we will provide a new insight into the lives of the soldiers at war from a personal and individual perspective."

Thirteen-year-old Hannah Nicol, above left, has been looking into the life of Captain Cecil Murray, an officer who served with the 6th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and who was killed in action on 16 June 1915 at the Battle of Festubert.

Hannah and art teacher June were invited to Low Parks Museum by Assistant Museums Officers Barrie Duncan and Lizzie O'Neill, where Hannah learned about Captain Murray's military career as a Private soldier.

Hannah said: "It was really great and I was able to see and hold the medals awarded to Captain Murray. Barrie and Lizzie gave me a lot of information and photographs which I can use in my project."

Meanwhile Calderglen High School in East Kilbride has unveiled a bespoke memorial to former pupils who died in battle.

The stunning Remembrance Garden, complete with a bespoke monument, is based on designs by pupils and was brought to fruition by a working group led by history teacher Andy McLean, above right.

He said: "This whole project, leading to today, has been a fitting community-wide tribute to those who fought and died in the Great War. Our sincere thanks must also go to our sponsors, whose genuine support, expertise and professionalism ensured a centenary commemoration of genuine quality."

Over in Uddingston, the town's War Memorial has been voted the best kept in Scotland by a national veterans' charity.

Legion Scotland singled out the memorial, above centre - which is maintained by the Council - from more than 80 entries from across the country.

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."



have fun *but be safe!*

Do you know the rules for using petrol powered machines such as quad bikes, scooters, go-peds, trail bikes, mini motos or motorbikes?

It is against the law to ride any petrol-driven machine on the road unless you have a driving licence, road tax and suitable third party insurance. A helmet and MOT certificate may also be required and the bike must be roadworthy.

It is against the law to ride in any other public place, which includes pavements, car parks, industrial estates, play parks, recreational grounds such as football pitches and any area where members of the public could be endangered.

You may be able to use these machines on private land, for example in a large private garden or in a secure private yard. If the land is not owned by the rider, then permission must be granted by the land owner prior to use.

While these machines may be great fun, they can also be extremely powerful and potentially dangerous. Please make sure that riders are competent to handle the machine or supervised where appropriate.

Always ride in a safe place

Always wear a proper motorcycle helmet – it may help to save your life!



For information on Road Safety please contact:

South Lanarkshire Council, Community and Enterprise Resources,
Roads and Transportation Services, Traffic and Transportation Section,
Montrose House, 154 Montrose Crescent, Hamilton ML3 6LB

Phone: 01698 453620

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



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