



# The View

September 2015

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council



## WALK UP THE AISLE FOR GROOM NICKY, ANGELA & BAILLIE



## NOTHING IS GOING TO WASTE

Just Married

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## SEEING DOUBLE ...TIMES FOUR

An amazing FOUR sets of twins all started school on the same day at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School this summer. The primary one twins pictured above are (L-R): Charlie and Maizie Docherty, Christopher and Matthew Small, Lily and Luke McCormick and Aaron & Oliver McCormack. Best of luck to all pupils who started or returned to school recently. Picture: Anne-Janine Nugent

### INSIDESTORY BLOOMTOWNS



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South Lanarkshire has been full of colour this summer

### HIGHFIVES



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Youngsters show an outstanding performance

### CASHMESSAGE



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How the power of text has kept my life in harmony

We want everyone who stays in South Lanarkshire to be a part of their community

# DISABLED BAY CHANGES TO BENEFIT VULNERABLE



By James Davitt

**C**HANGES to the way disabled person's parking bays are allocated mean vulnerable people need no longer be left on their own by the roadside. Under previous criteria, if the blue badge holder was a non-driver it meant a bay would more than likely not be marked outside their home.

However, the new changes mean that in some circumstances the bay can now be provided to ensure individuals are being supported to have greater access to day to day life and the services available in their local communities.

Chair of South Lanarkshire

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**DEDICATED:** Some of the council's community wardens who help tackle anti-social behaviour



# ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY SEES CRIME FIGURES FALL

By James Davitt

**T**HE number of crimes in South Lanarkshire linked to anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to fall.

In recent years, the number of ASB crimes has reduced by almost a third, from 19,783 in 2009/10 to 13,470 in 2013/14.

Latest data shows the four most common ASB crimes as perceived by the public are: dog fouling and barking; rubbish and litter; rowdy behaviour including drunkenness, hooliganism or loutish behaviour; and drug misuse or dealing. Studies show the views of South Lanarkshire residents reflect those across Scotland.

The findings were included in the latest Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (2015-17) for South Lanarkshire Council and were welcomed by Eddie McAvoy, the Leader of South Lanarkshire Council.

Councillor McAvoy said:

**"Such behaviour is simply not acceptable and that is why the strategy sets out exactly what the problems are and what we will do to tackle them"**

"It is extremely encouraging to see crimes related to anti-social behaviour continue to be reduced in South Lanarkshire.

"However, we know that there is still work to do in some communities, and as a council tackling anti-social behaviour is one of our top priorities.

"Such behaviour is simply not acceptable and that is why the strategy sets out exactly what the problems are and what we will do to tackle them.

"Of course it has to take into account the wider context of communities experiencing a variety of complex social and economic problems.

"Through our work with various partners, we are looking to reduce anti-social behaviour by tackling not only the issue but the underlying causes.

"There are a number of ways in which we deal with anti-social behaviour where it occurs and also



to prevent it happening in the first place.

"The strategy sets out exactly what those are and I am confident our dedicated team of officers will continue to build on the improvements we have made in recent years to change anti-social behaviour."

The council's latest ASB strategy builds on previous experience in dealing with anti-social behaviour, and one of the main focuses is on providing people with the sort of safe and attractive community in which they want to live.

The strategy details the extent and nature of anti-social behaviour, how partners work together to co-ordinate their work, the strategic priorities and how the strategy will be monitored and progress reported.

The strategy contains three specific outcomes: that South Lanarkshire has safe communities;

a reduction in the impact anti-social behaviour has on people's lives; and an improved quality of advice, assistance and support for victims of anti-social behaviour and other service users.

To achieve these outcomes there is an action plan which has 19 key measures to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Local authorities are required by the Anti-Social Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 to prepare, publish and review a strategy for dealing with anti-social behaviour in their council area, in conjunction with the police.

A number of key partners contribute to the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Implementation Group (ASBIG) including representatives from the council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Victim Support Scotland and other partners.

## CITY DEAL BUSINESS CASES APPROVED

STRATEGIC business cases for the projects which will take place in South Lanarkshire as part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal have been given approval.

Within South Lanarkshire almost £170m will be invested in four separate projects – Stewartfield Way, East Kilbride (£62m), Greenhills Road/A726, East Kilbride (£23m), Cathkin Bypass, Rutherglen (£21m) and Community Growth Areas in Newton, Hamilton, Larkhall and East Kilbride (£62m).

The business cases were given approval by South Lanarkshire Council's Executive Committee and then submitted to the City Deal Programme Management Office for consideration at their most

recent Cabinet meeting. The business cases were also approved at that meeting.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, Councillor Eddie McAvoy, said: "This is the next stage of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal.

"The detailed business cases set out exactly what the benefits will be and the improvements they will bring to our area.

"Not only will the projects create 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 help cement the Clyde Valley region as one of Europe's leading areas with a vibrant, thriving economy."

The £1.13 billion City Deal is an agreement between the UK government, the Scottish Government and eight local authorities across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

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







## The groom was an actor but the bride took the lead



# AND THEY CALLED IT PUPPY LOVE...

By Andy Livingstone

**I**t was a wedding that had more bow wows than vows.

A hush fell over the wedding guests as the door opened and the bride came into view. White dress trailing in romantic perfection, she stepped up the aisle, smiling with love at her groom and sparing an adoring glance for the figure at her side, there to give her away: her faithful collie.

A dog may be man's best friend and Baillie the Collie may normally have a special soft spot for his master, Nicky Elliot, but on that special day in August, he only had eyes for the bride, Angela.

Now six years old, Baillie has lived with the couple all of his life and has become, as Nicky (40) explained, "the proverbial part of the family."

"He goes everywhere with us," he said, "and is always attracting attention. He is a very happy dog, friendly to everyone and always seeming to be smiling, so people are drawn to him all the time."

"So when it came to choosing who would walk Angela up the aisle, he really was the natural choice."

Resplendent in collar and bow tie and with a lead garlanded in flowers, Baillie certainly looked the part as well as acting it at the wedding at the Hunting Lodge at Chatelherault Country Park.

Angela (34) remembered: "My mum, Alice, walked beside Baillie and so was on hand in case he got distracted, but he performed his duties perfectly. After all, he is no stranger to performing and has even been on TV with Nicky in a BT commercial."

"We have been to Chatelherault so many



**PAUSING FOR A PICTURE:** Nicky and bride Angela with Baillie

times walking with Baillie, so it was lovely to have him involved on our wedding day there – and he certainly gave a few passers-by a smile.

"It is lovely, because the three of us can come back here on our anniversary and celebrate together – with a walk!"

Originally from Glasgow, Nicky's family moved to Ireland when he was a teenager and, as an adult, he enjoyed a successful career as a professional actor there.

Just over seven years ago, he moved back to Scotland and it was while he was out for an evening with his sister in Glasgow just two months after his return that she saw Angela, thought they would make a good couple, and introduced them.

The couple have been together ever since, and with Baillie being a part of their life for six of those seven years, it is no surprise that they are so close to him.

A close group of around 20 guests helped them to celebrate their big day at Chatelherault, after which they retired home for the reception in the garage they have converted into a studio for fitness instructor and yoga teacher Angela.

They didn't manage a proper honeymoon after their grrrrreat wedding but with Nicky about to embark on a UK and international tour with the National Theatre's production of The James Plays – Rona Munro's acclaimed trilogy about the Kings James I, II and III of Scotland – they are hopeful to be able to arrange some time together next year.

The tour will start at the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh and end next July in London. In between, it will play across the UK and abroad, travelling as far as New Zealand and Canada, so Angela is hoping to meet up with her husband at one of the latter two destinations for a late honeymoon.

As long as she can find lodgings for the dear friend who walked her up the aisle, that is...

## The future's bright for volunteering in the Clyde and Avon Valleys

A NEW volunteer and training programme is looking for people who are interested in doing more for nature, the environment and the local heritage in the Clyde and Avon valleys.

The Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership has been running volunteering and volunteer training programmes locally since 2012.

Thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant, the landscape partnership is making an investment in volunteering that will help shape the Clyde and Avon valley's natural spaces and historical environment for the better.

In return for lending a hand on current and future projects, volunteers will benefit from learning new skills, being part of a vibrant volunteer network and improving their health and well-being. The project also brings together local community groups, providing them with additional skills and support to run effectively.

The current volunteering opportunities include Volunteer Ambassadors, Environmental Volunteers,



**SKILLS:** Chainsaw training with Clydesdale Community Initiatives

Heritage Volunteers, Reserve assistants, Glorious Gardens Volunteers, Education Assistants, Health Walk Leaders, Garden Volunteers, Path Wardens and Excavation Volunteers

Donna Marshall, Manager of CAVLP, said: "The Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership is delivering around 70 conservation and heritage projects between now and 2018, but we can't address all the conservation challenges facing the Clyde and Avon valleys on our own."

"The key to delivering successful projects to protect, enhance and conserve the natural and built environment in this area is to mobilise more people who share our aims to safeguard the heritage of the Clyde and Avon valleys for the future."

■ **Find out more about volunteering opportunities and fill out an application form at:** <http://www.clydeandavonvalley.com/our-people/volunteer>





# BLOOMIN' BEAUTIFUL EFFORT BRINGS A SPLASH OF COLOUR

By Mhairi Anderson

**T**OWNS and villages across South Lanarkshire have been blooming into life this summer.

The council's Grounds Services teams and street cleansing operatives have been working with local communities to improve the floral displays across the area.

Despite one of the wettest summers in almost 30 years, standards have improved across many of the towns and villages.

A number of South Lanarkshire towns are participating in Beautiful Scotland in Bloom again this year.

Ground Services staff have been giving those involved in the competition a great deal of support offering advice, ground preparation, transportation of plants and materials and increased watering during the run up to the final judging of the competition.

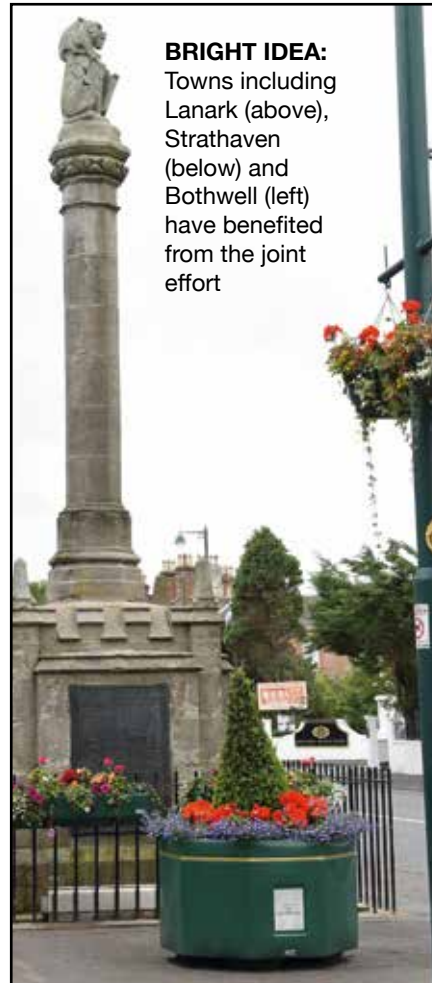
Stephen Kelly, Head of Facilities, Fleet & Ground Services said: "It is just fantastic that so many of our towns and village communities enter this prestigious Beautiful Scotland in Bloom competition each year and take such pride in their neighbourhoods.

"As well as our own efforts to put beautiful floral colour into our towns and villages we are delighted to be able to support the communities each year and



we wish all of them well for this year's competition."

The Beautiful Scotland Awards Ceremony takes place this month at Perth Concert Hall.



**BRIGHT IDEA:** Towns including Lanark (above), Strathaven (below) and Bothwell (left) have benefited from the joint effort

## Bay changes will help vulnerable disabled people

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Council's Finance and Corporate Resources Committee, Councillor Gerry Convery, said: "The previous criteria could result in someone with, for example Alzheimers or severe mobility issues, having to wait at the side of the road while the driver went off to find a parking space.

"This could mean the person was left alone for a period of time which left them extremely vulnerable.

"We want everyone who stays in South Lanarkshire to be a part of their community and not to create barriers that hinder them in any way from doing so.

"The new regulations are just one way we are looking to make sure that people can still participate in the day-to-day activities and go about their normal business."

A disabled persons parking bay can still only be used when the blue badge holder is being dropped off or picked up.

Councillor Convery said: "It's important to remember that even if you request a bay outside your home, meet the relevant criteria and are granted one, it is not 'your' space.

"Anyone who displays a valid blue badge and is using



the bay in the correct manner could park there."

The Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 meant all councils which are responsible for parking enforcement had to issue fines for anyone not correctly displaying their blue badge and parking in a disabled persons parking bay.

South Lanarkshire Council has been carrying out this practice since it began enforcing parking in 2005, with more than 4500 Penalty Charge Notices issued to vehicles parked illegally in such bays.

Councillor Convery said: "While we will do everything we can to help those who qualify for blue badges, make no mistake we will crack down on anyone misusing them.

"We will also ensure that those who do not display a valid blue badge, or do not display it correctly, will be issued with fines if they park in disabled persons parking bays. There is no excuse for using a bay if you are not entitled to do so."

The amended criteria and procedures follow consultation with South Lanarkshire Access Panel and the South Lanarkshire Disability Partnership.





**MEMORIES:** Mary Munro (right) performing at Wembley Stadium at an England v Scotland match in 1944 and, below, Zen Boyd with Mary outside Rutherglen Library

# MEMORIES STIRRED BY SKIRL OF PIPES

By Sarah Burrows

**W**HEN librarian Zen Boyd was tasked with arranging an exhibition on WW2 for Rutherglen Library, little did she know she would uncover the story of a remarkable local woman's tireless contribution to the war effort which would really bring the exhibition to life.

Mary Munro, 93, has lived in Rutherglen for the past 60 years. She has been a library customer for many of them, but it was a chance meeting between Mary and Zen which has led to her amazing story being uncovered and given the prominence it deserves.

Mary's story and her personal collection of photos and war-time artefacts form the central part of the library's 'WW2 in Rutherglen' exhibition, which can be viewed in the Heritage Centre.

During the Second World War, Miss Mary Munro was a bagpiper in a nationally-recruited female Auxiliary Territorial Service band, which played for the troops and communities all over the world.

Mary travelled from Glasgow to London, Paris, Egypt and Israel. She treasures these times dearly, saying they were the happiest and most exciting of her life.

She said: "Great friendships were formed with women from all over the UK, brought together from a mutual love of bagpipes.

"It was a great feeling knowing that, through music, we could bring smiles back to people's faces and raise morale when it was needed.

"We travelled to places I could only otherwise have dreamed of and we had many a great adventure."

She recalls that it was also very hard work.

Mary said: "On a usual day, we would have a 7.30am alarm call and a couple of hours of intensive physical training before around 6 hours of music practice."

Mary particularly enjoyed when the women would join the Coldstream Guards at London's Wellington Barracks for drill sessions. She says: "I enjoyed the practice schedule and the regime and eventually went on to win a medal for my marching skills. Some of the other women were put off as it was mentally and physically tough but I embraced the challenge."

Mary remembers that she was paid £1.05 a week which did her fine, and she always had some left over to have fun.

Wistfully she says she's not remembering things through rose tinted glasses as she vividly recalls the fear and the tension of living in London in 1943. "It was awful, there was the constant threat of bombs and although you did go about your normal life it was hanging over you all the time.

"Air raids would happen often during the day and night and I still get a sick feeling when I think of the wailing siren alert."

The pipe band took part in their first parade in June 1943 and didn't look back. From then they followed army exhibitions around the world.

She remembers fondly that they used to give impromptu performances to those they felt needed a boost – either in neighbourhoods or to workers in munitions factories. "We



really were given such a warm welcome wherever we went and we thoroughly enjoyed touring and doing our bit to raise the spirit of the troops."

"Although we travelled all around the world, my favourite two performances were in Paris where we had a thank you printed in the local paper and when we performed at Windsor Castle and we were given a salute from King George VI."

Mary and her first hand recount of the war has really been brought to life in this exhibition.

Librarian at Rutherglen Heritage Centre, Zen Boyd said: "I am honoured to have met Mary Munro and to be able to help share her story with a larger audience. The photos are of an amazing quality for the time and some truly take your breath away, such as the parade at Windsor Castle and at Wembley Stadium. A truly inspirational collection. A story shared is never forgotten.

"When Mary handed in her book all about her WW2 story as a bagpiper then I knew this display could be something very special. Her photos are of an extremely high quality and illustrate her story. Over the past 6 months Mary and I have become good friends and even went on a trip to the National Piping Centre together."

■ The full display and Mary's story is available to view in Rutherglen Heritage Centre, as part of a permanent collection. Rutherglen Heritage Centre is open Monday to Friday. Appointments must be booked in advance on 0141 613 5380 or email [rutherglen.reference@library.s-lanark.org.uk](mailto:rutherglen.reference@library.s-lanark.org.uk)





# Shona shows iron determination in Half Ironman World Championships

By Mhairi Anderson

**A**S a sporting discipline that pushes the body to the absolute maximum, nothing can compete with the Ironman Championships.

Consisting of a punishing swim, a gruelling bike ride and finally a draining long-distance run, the Ironman events require remarkable levels of fitness and dedication.

One person who has risen to that challenge is South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's Athletics coach Shona Girdwood.

She qualified for the World 70.3 Half Ironman Championships held in Austria in August this year after competing in her first UK 70.3 Half Ironman Championships.

The event, which took place in Wimbelball, Devon, in June is known to be the hardest Half Ironman course in the world and consists of a 1900m swim, 95km cycle and 21km run.

Shona said: "There were only two qualifying spots for the 70.3 World Championships in my age group of 45yrs-49yrs.

"I knew it was going to be really tough as I was up against athletes from all over the world. The bike course alone was 58 miles with 56 hills and the run too was very hilly.

"Conditions on the day were not the greatest and the lake was extremely choppy but this suited me fine."

Shona was winner in her age group by 2 seconds coming in 13th out of over 500 women competitors to qualify for the World Championships.

She said: "I was so delighted to have qualified. It was a massive achievement and one which I have strived for over the past three years."

In her World Championship event Shona swam in the crystal clear waters of the beautiful Austrian Lake Worthersee

**"Conditions on the day were not the greatest and the lake was extremely choppy but this suited me fine"**



**TRUE GRIT:** Shona Girdwood has been competing in the tough Ironman championships

then cycled through the scenic landscape of Carinthia with two steep climbs on each loop. The run then took her along the lakeside and across the mainly flat and shaded city of Klagenfurt.

Shona continued: "It was a great experience competing against the best in the world in my

age group and was a fantastic achievement. It was extremely tough as

many of the athletes are professionals, training and competing full time. I really loved the experience and hope that I will have the opportunity to compete again.



"I had great support from all of my family and my work colleagues have also been

amazing in their support for me. I'm very grateful for the support I have received from everyone."

## Laughter all the way at HA HA HAMILTON comedy festival

HAMILTON will be reverberating with the sound of laughter this month as the town's third annual comedy festival gets underway.

The HaHa Hamilton Comedy Festival will take place over nine days from September 25 until October 3.

Featuring a number of the hottest names from the Scottish comedy scene, the festival kicks off with a glittering comedy spectacular in aid of the STV Children's Appeal 2015.

Taking place at Hamilton Town House on September 25, the event is hosted by Scottish comedy legend and Capital Breakfast host Des Clarke.

Among those lined-up to take part are the stars of the BBC's show Burnistoun (Robert Florence and Iain Connell), Channel 4's very own Gary Tank Commander (aka Greg McHugh), Still Game's Navid (Sanjeev Kohli), Father Ted's Michael Redmond, stand-up extraordinaire Janey Godley, star of Live at the Apollo, Tom Stadel and Scottish wrestling favourite, Grado.

Tickets cost £20 with every penny going to the STV Children's Appeal 2015 (please note this event is for over 18s only).

Pop Idol winner and broadcaster Michelle McManus

will also bring her successful Edinburgh Festival show - Reloaded - to the Town House. Tickets cost £10 or £8 for concessions.

A host of other events, the majority of them free to attend, will also take place during the nine days.

Event co-organiser Dougie Jackson added: "We tried to make it as accessible a festival as possible so have included something for everyone, including club nights in bars, kids shows in the town's shopping precincts and even a comedy karaoke night."

Mark Calpin, Chair of Hamilton BID, said: "This year we have some fantastic comedians coming to the town and the comedy gala is a fitting start to the festival. HaHa Hamilton is a great opportunity to see some top acts up close in venues across the town."

Tickets for the gala show and Michelle McManus are on sale now, from [www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk) or 01698 452 299.

Full details on the festival are available at [www.haha-hamilton.com](http://www.haha-hamilton.com)



**COMEDY GOLD:** Des Clarke will host the comedy spectacular in aid of the STV Children's Appeal





The hospital at home team, left, during a recent visit from Minister for Public Health Maureen Watt, front row centre. Dr Graham Ellis is pictured front row right, Trudi Marshall, Nurse Consultant for Older People, back row far left and Claire Ritchie, AHP Rehab Consultant for Older People, pictured back row far right. Above, aftermath of quake.

# Hospital at Home's expert advice to South American earthquake-stricken zone

By Euan Duguid

LANARKSHIRE'S Hospital at Home team is courting interest from the furthest reaches of the globe – including an earthquake-stricken region of Chile.

The specialist emergency team, which has recently expanded into South Lanarkshire and provides hospital-level care in older people's own homes, has been subject to growing national and international attention. This includes liaising with healthcare professionals from Switzerland and Japan – who are working to find new and innovative ways of caring for their ageing populations.

Now senior members of Hospital at Home are currently in talks with a similar service in Chile – rolled out after the earthquake of February 2010 which claimed over 500 lives and devastated vital infrastructure, including many hospitals.

A report following the disaster showed all Government-run hospitals surveyed lost varying degrees of functional capacity, including loss of communications, electricity and water.

The earthquake, ranked as the sixth largest ever to be recorded, was felt strongly in six Chilean regions with damage particularly pronounced in Chile's largest urban area, Concepción. Geriatric Nurse Specialist, Carolina Gomez Puchi, who is carrying out a vital research from the University of Concepción, has been in talks with the Lanarkshire-based team.

Speaking from Chile, Ms Puchi explained: "In 2010, as part of a strategy to support the loss of hospital beds experienced in central and southern Chile during the earthquake, a number of new hospital in the home programs were set up.

"As of last year there were about 24 Chilean public hospitals which have a program of home hospitalisation."

In Chile doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and auxiliary nursing staff work together to provide complex hospital care in homes for adults suffering from conditions such as pneumonia and urinary tract infections. Research, however, is still very new and the Chilean team, set up as an emergency response, have remained relatively basic.

As part of her studies and research, Ms Puchi contacted the Lanarkshire Hospital at Home after finding an online presentation about the team, by Hospital at Home lead and Consultant Geriatrician, Dr Graham Ellis.

Evidence shows that Lanarkshire's Hospital at Home provides safe, effective person-centred care, equivalent to the acute hospital, in the patient's own home. After being piloted in some areas of North Lanarkshire, where the rise of over-75 hospital admissions in the area was reduced, the team have recently been expanded to South Lanarkshire.

Trudi Marshall, Nurse Consultant for Older People and member of the Hospital at Home is in talks with Ms Puchi.

Trudi explained: "We're offering insight into aspects like staff development, the patient and carer's experience and our evaluation measures."

In Lanarkshire, the service is made up of a range of healthcare professionals including NHS Lanarkshire consultants and nurses, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

They work with social work resources in both North and South Lanarkshire Councils who provide additional community support to patients, when required.

Additionally, the Scottish Ambulance Service is a key partner in the Hospital at Home team - which also works closely with unpaid carers and their representatives.

Claire Ritchie, of Hospital at Home, who has also been liaising, added: "In Chile they are interested to broaden out the scope of the care their teams provide. We're delighted to do anything we can to assist – and also learn from their experience."

Ms Puchi added: "Finding out about the experiences of the Hospital at Home team in Lanarkshire has been hugely helpful as there are some very similar challenges with an ageing population."

The growing international attention comes at a crucial time. A new Act requires health boards and local authorities to integrate their adult health and social care services.

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

Harry Stevenson, Chief Officer of South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, added: "Services like Hospital at Home demonstrate that we are fully focussed on making a real difference to the lives of people in the area. The international attention the service is now receiving underlines that."

## Similar challenges

The shape of Scottish society and the health and care needs of our communities are changing. People are living longer, healthier lives and as the needs of our society change, so too must the nature and form of our public services.

In the next 10 years, the number of Scots aged over 75 will increase by over 25%. In the same period, it's also estimated that nearly two-thirds of people will have developed a long-term condition by the age of 65.

Research shows that most older people would prefer to remain in their own homes, with support if they are unable to look after themselves.

Ms Puchi explained similar challenges are being experienced elsewhere. "The current health



Chilean Geriatric Nurse Specialist, Carolina Gomez Puchi, at work in the community and head and at study.

situation in Latin America and the Caribbean is characterised by a progressive increase in the burden of chronic diseases secondary to a marked aging of the population.

"There is a high cost of treatment with hospital beds that have generated the need to reorganise the health systems and services in order to meet the demand for care."

■ For more information on Hospital at Home and how the team works with unpaid carers and existing resources in the community visit: <http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/Services/hospital-at-home/Pages/default.aspx>

■ For more information on the integration on health and social care in Lanarkshire visit: <http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/About/HSCP/Pages/FAQs.aspx>





# MEET THE A PUPILS' EXAM RESULTS COULD

**Top marks at schools across South Lanarkshire as their hard work and dedication pays off with superb results**

By Andy Livingstone

**S**UMMERTIME brings to many teenagers school holidays, free time and... the anxious wait for exam results.

Teachers across South Lanarkshire were delighted to see large numbers of pupils gaining the qualifications they had worked so hard towards.

The overall pass rate in South Lanarkshire for pupils sitting the Higher was 74%. There was also an increase in the Advanced Higher pass rate, with 78% of pupils achieving success. National 4 and National 5 results showed pass rates of 92.1% and 80.7% respectively.

However, even among those successes, there were some youngsters who showed an outstanding level of performance.

Five such pupils were found at Hamilton's Holy Cross High School, gathering 28 Highers between them.

Three boys who sat their Highers as fifth year pupils gained no fewer than six passes each – and astonishingly with all but one of their Highers at A grade and 12 of them at Band 1.

David Hayburn (17), who hopes to study Medicine, couldn't have done better by achieving the Band 1 standard in each of his subjects, as did another 17-year-old, Ciaran Jenkins, with a view to going on to study Aero Mechanical Engineering.

Both boys have returned to school to build on their success in sixth year, as has Michael Creechan (16), who gained five As in English, History, Chemistry,



**MAKING THE GRADE:** Ciaran Jenkins (left) and Michael Creechan, from Holy Cross HS, celebrated a clutch of superb grades. And delighted head teacher John Reilly.

Physics and Business Management and a B in Maths and who is looking at a career in Investment Banking.

Meanwhile, twins Rachel and Hannah Duddy doubled up with five Highers each and, like the boys, they are looking to increase their qualifications with a further year of study at the school.

Head teacher John Reilly said: "I was delighted with our SQA results, which were absolutely outstanding and a true reflection of the work put in by our young people and staff.

"However, the results achieved by this group of young people deserve special praise. All of us at Holy Cross High School are so proud of their achievements

and we look forward to working with them as part of our Sixth Year group this year."

The success of Rachel and Hannah was mirrored by another two pairs of twin sisters at Larkhall Academy.

Morven and Kirsty Miller and Morgan and Hannah Charleston, all aged 16, also gained five Highers each and have returned to study further in 6th year at the school.

The council also congratulated those students who have achieved success in vocational subjects, which is a reflection of the broad range of learning that takes place in schools, while offering support to others who didn't achieve the results



**HEALTHY OPTIONS:** Holy Cross pupil David Hayburn hopes he will be helped towards a medical career after his six Highers at A Band 1.



**MAKING THE GRADE:** Ciaran Jenkins (left) and Michael Creechan, from Holy Cross HS, celebrated a clutch of superb grades.







# TEAM... N'T BE 'HIGHER'



**SUCCESS TO THE FOUR:** Five Highers each were achieved by two pairs of twins at Larkhall Academy, Morven and Kirsty Miller and Morgan and Hannah Charleston, all aged 16.



they had hoped for.

Jim Gilhooly, Executive Director of Education said: "Early indications are that young people in South Lanarkshire have performed very well and results across all areas continue to improve. This is testament to the hard work of the pupils and their teachers and the levels of support provided by parents and carers and clearly demonstrate that our young people have high ambitions and are achieving success.

"Exam results are important but they need to be considered in the context of the development of a range of skills and competencies as these are also important factors in enabling young people to enter the world of work or to move into further or higher education.

"Whilst the majority will receive the grades they were hoping for we should also remember that, even if there has been some disappointment, there is always support and guidance on hand to help everyone build on their achievements in a positive way."

Councillor Jean McKeown, Chair of the Education Resources Committee said: "It is great to see so many young people achieve the success they deserve and my congratulations go to all pupils who gained a wide range of national qualifications and awards. It is a reward for all their hard work and periods of study."



**SOUND AMBITION:** Calum Blair and Fraser Cooper from Duncanrig Secondary

## Young musicians are on song with exam success

Two pupils at an East Kilbride school certainly hit the right note with their exam results.

Calum Blair and Fraser Cooper, who attend Duncanrig Secondary, had shown such ability in music that they were presented for SQA exams earlier than normal – and both proved that they were in tune with what was needed for success.

The boys have now started fifth year, but were still just in S4 when they sat and passed their Music exam, Calum (15) gaining Advanced Higher and 16-year-old Fraser achieving Higher.

Their music teacher, Jane Ramsay, was understandably delighted with the pair's achievements. She said: "It is extremely rare for pupils to achieve this – we have only ever done early presentation for Music once before

**"To achieve these results at the age they are is testament not only to the ability of these two boys, but also their attitude and dedication"**

this, and that pupil went on to attend the Royal Conservatoire, so that shows the standard involved.

'To achieve these results at the age they are is testament not only to the ability of these two boys, but also their attitude and dedication. We must not forget though, that

great credit must go also to the external instructors who put in a power of work to help them rise to the required standard.'

Calum, who had already passed Higher Music in Third Year, started playing the piano at an early age. It was only when a brass band was set up in his local area with an offer of teaching an instrument to anyone interested in joining that he considered adding to his repertoire at the age of 11.

The trumpet is now his main instrument and, outwith his studies, he plays with the West of Scotland Concert Band and the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. In fact, he hopes it will become an even bigger part of his life, with an ambition to eventually make a career in orchestral performance.

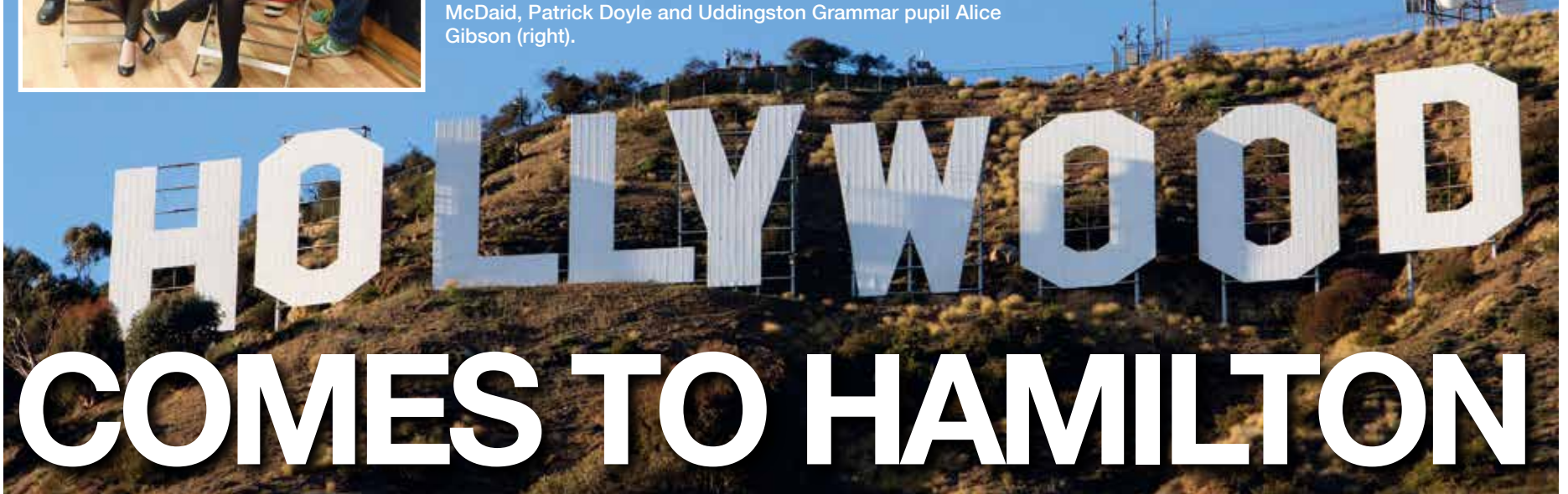
Fraser also started young. His grandpa was involved in a choir and when the eight-year-old Fraser showed an interest in the piano, he began teaching him on a casual basis. As his talent started to show, more formal lessons took him on to higher standards and, although he also now plays the saxophone, the piano remains his instrument of choice.

His future in music is less orchestral than that of Calum. He explained: "I play in the ceilidh band at the school and love doing that so, whatever I do with my music, it will be more contemporary."





**INSPIRING:** Panel members relax (left) and take to the stage (above) during the Creative Industries Conference. Pam McDaid, Patrick Doyle and Uddingston Grammar pupil Alice Gibson (right).



By Sarah Burrows

**IT'S** not often that secondary school musicians rub shoulders with Hollywood stars, or get to perform at a European film premier... but for a lucky few this is exactly what happened during the summer.

As part of an exciting Creative Industries event, the iconic silent film *IT* starring Clara Bow found its voice thanks to leading film composer, Patrick Doyle and a live orchestra of 23 students from North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire schools and the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Patrick Doyle, who hails from Lanarkshire, has been the inspiration for this project and is keen to promote the opportunities that the world of Film and TV can provide for young people.

Patrick's work includes *Harry Potter - The Goblet of Fire*, *Thor*, *Brave* and, most recently, *Cinderella*. This will be the Scottish and European premier of Patrick's original score commissioned by the Syracuse International Film Festival in 2013.

He said: "It was extremely important to me that young Scottish people will be performing in the Scottish and European premier of *IT*. I come from South Lanarkshire, which gave me tremendous musical opportunities that I have built upon throughout my film composing career. Hopefully the *IT* project will inspire this new generation."

The evening performances of *IT* took place in Hamilton's Townhouse as part of a two-day joint North and South Lanarkshire project in conjunction with The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and funded by Creative Scotland.

The young performers have been rehearsing over the past few months with Patrick, learning what it is like to play for a film and the complexities that this involves.

It is hoped that this project as the beginning of an ongoing programme in schools.

Patrick says: "My aim is not only for the young musicians involved in the orchestra but to our wider audiences of young people at the evening performances and in our Creative Industries event workshops presented by our host of internationally successful guests."

"If I can do it, so can they."

Pam McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council's Quality Improvement Officer, who pulled the event together, commented: "This has been a truly inspiring project for our young people to take part in. It has encouraged them to really stretch themselves and it is astounding how much they have improved instrumentally. The whole experience has given them food for thought and encouraged them to think seriously about a career in the creative industries."

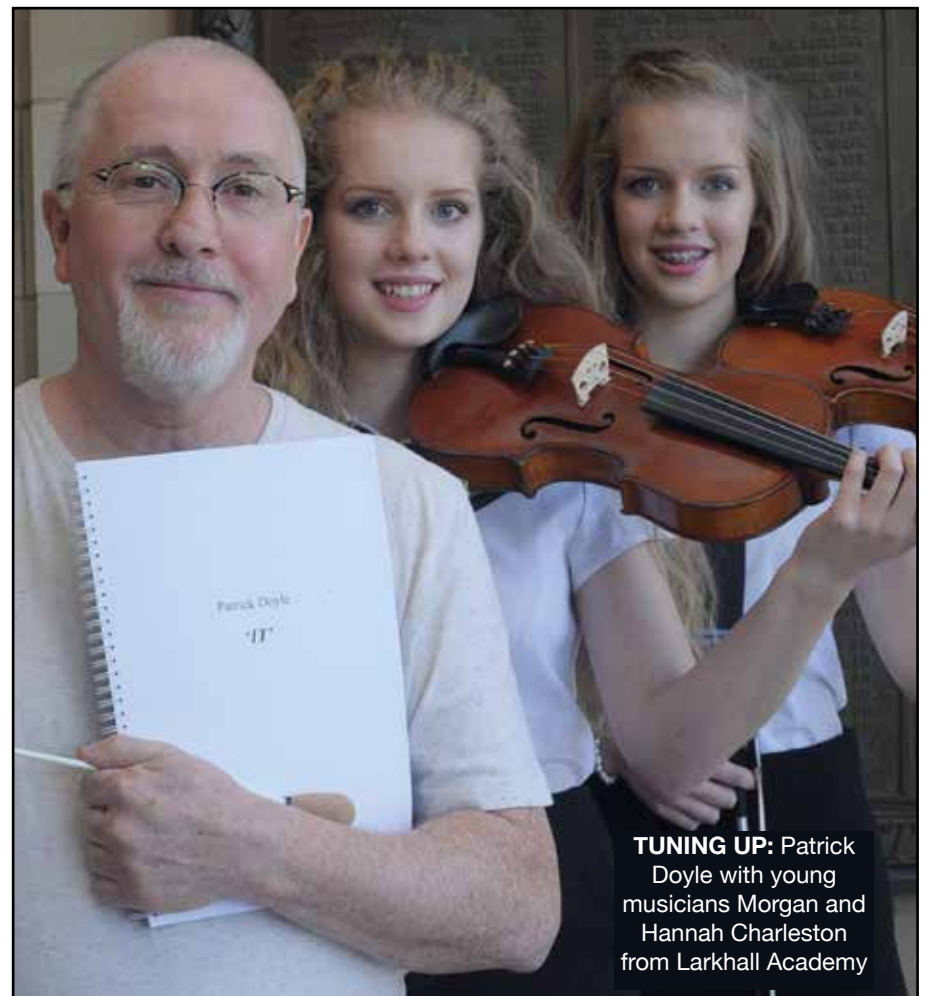
The Creative Industries event was open to 150 third year students from North and South Lanarkshire schools who wanted to find out about the reality of a career in television and film with a list of huge industry names on hand to give advice and guidance.

Patrick Doyle spoke at the wider event along with his daughter Abi Doyle, Director of International Productions with Simon Cowell's film *Syco*.

Actress Barbara Rafferty – best known for her role as Ella in *Rab C Nesbitt* – was also in attendance to give advice to budding actors.

And, in his first trip to Scotland Schawn Belston flew in from LA to offer first hand experience of working for one of the world's biggest film companies – Twentieth Century Fox.

Pupils were able to take part in workshops and a Q and A session with each of these big names and other high fliers from the world of music, television and film.



**TUNING UP:** Patrick Doyle with young musicians Morgan and Hannah Charleston from Larkhall Academy

The young audience were also able to visit an information zone to find out more about further and higher education routes and specific careers in the creative industries.

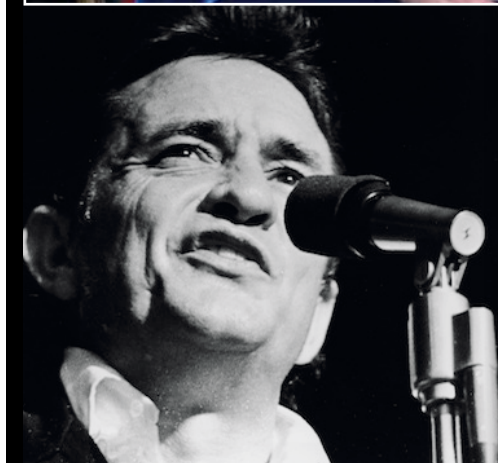
Pam McDaid was delighted with the success of the conference. She said: "The pupils who attended were selected because they have shown an interest in music, art,

drama or technical skills. This event was an ideal opportunity for them to grab that interest and think about how they can move in a career pathway which will get them to where they want to be. All of the extremely high profile speakers will undoubtedly have inspired some of them that a career in the creative industries is definitely for them."





**UP BEAT:**  
John Stalker  
with NHS  
Lanarkshire  
respiratory  
nurse Pamela  
McAtamney.



# Musician's life kept in harmony thanks to innovative text system

By Euan Duguid

**S**OUTH Lanarkshire's answer to Johnny Cash has revealed how the power of text has kept his life in harmony during ill health.

John Stalker (54), from Hamilton, was a long distance driver who – inspired by the Man in Black – sang and played guitar around local music halls and clubs in his spare time.

However, life as he knew it was changed forever when, after bouts of increasing breathlessness and a persistent cough, John was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in 2011.

COPD is the name for a collection of lung diseases including chronic bronchitis, emphysema and chronic asthma.

John had to retire from his job, but ongoing medical support, including an innovative new text message system – which links patients directly to NHS Lanarkshire respiratory nurses to help manage their condition – has given him a crucial boost.

"When something like this happens it affects your confidence profoundly – especially when you're used to performing.

"The text message system, however, has given me an extra layer of reassurance

and a sense of regaining control. Help and advice is only a text away."

The system is known as Florence and is free for the patient to use.

COPD patients, who can be of any age over 16 years, text details such as pulse and oxygen levels and receive texts back with advice and reminders, all based on the latest readings and their individual care. If the symptoms worsen an alert is also sent to the specialist nurse allowing them to respond by phone, text or visit as required.

John had 11 hospital admissions last year due to his condition.

Since starting using the text message system in January he's only been admitted once as he was able to initiate treatment and specialist support earlier – from his own home.

Patient safety is paramount at NHS Lanarkshire and whilst traditional hospital care is still available John has specialist equipment at home to help him with his breathing.

"Having support like this – including the specialist nurses a text away – is all about freedom and retaining independence, which is crucial.

"Although I'm not able to sing at length and visit clubs, I can still play the guitar – which I feel is a vital outlet I'm still able to enjoy."

## Walk the line

John's life-long love of country and western music has been inspired by the greats, in particular Johnny Cash.

"My favourite tracks are Walk The Line and I've Got Stripes – there's a story behind every song.

"In the early 80s I played guitar in a band called Trio Plus One continuing as a solo artist in a lot of working men's clubs," he explained "I played under the name, John MaRoadie – on account of the fact that my solo career was launched after I was helping a local keyboard player out as his roadie!" John laughed.

The innovative scheme is part of the European-wide initiative United4Health, which is geared to using new technology to improve healthcare. NHS Lanarkshire along with North and South Lanarkshire Council are partners and the initiative comes at a pivotal time.

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

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

Morag Hearty of NHS Lanarkshire, United4Health programme Manager, added: "This is just one of a raft of systems being introduced to get patients more involved in custom designed, personalised healthcare which can only increase independent living."

To find out more about United4Health and the Florence text programme, e mail Morag Hearty on [United4.HealthProject@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:United4.HealthProject@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk) or speak to your respiratory nurse. Similar supports are also available for heart failure patients.

■ To find more about the integration visit: <http://www.nhs.uk/ABOUT/HSCP/Pages/FAQs.aspx>





**SPORTING SUCCESS:** Young people from Duncanrig (left) and St Cadoc's (above) celebrate their fantastic achievements

# SPORTING SUCCESS FOR TWO SCHOOLS

By Mhairi Anderson

**T**WO South Lanarkshire schools have been recognised with a Gold sportsScotland national award for innovation and achievement in delivering PE and extra-curricular sport.

Duncanrig Secondary School in East Kilbride and St Cadoc's Primary School, in Halfway, Cambuslang, were the successful schools. St Cadoc's is the very first primary in South Lanarkshire to have reached Gold status.

Ann Marie McConnell, Head Teacher said: "We are thrilled that St Cadoc's

Primary School has achieved a Gold sportsScotland award. We are very proud of all the pupils, staff and sporting community who have worked hard to embed physical education and health and wellbeing at the heart of our school ethos."

George Wynne, Headteacher of Duncanrig Secondary School puts the school's sporting success down to the excellent partnership working between teachers, coaches and pupils.

He said: "We are absolutely delighted and very proud to be awarded the sportsScotland Gold School Sport Award. Our PE staff and our Sports Co-ordinators from South

Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture have worked incredibly hard together to emphasise the importance of sport and to provide the many and varied opportunities that the pupils of Duncanrig enjoy. We all believe that physical activity is important to the rounded development of young people."

There are only 85 schools across Scotland to have received a Gold Award so it really is an amazing achievement for both schools.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of sportsScotland, agrees. He said: "I would like to congratulate all of the staff and pupils at Duncanrig Secondary School

and St Cadoc's Primary School for putting quality physical education and school sport at the heart of the school. They should be proud of this fantastic achievement.

"We are building a world-class sporting system for everyone, and a crucial part of that is putting young people at the centre of our efforts. Working with our partners in local authorities and governing bodies of sport, we are creating closer links between physical education, school sport and club sport, which benefits young people by providing more and better opportunities to take part in sport."

## YOUNG ACHIEVERS ARE DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD STARS

THANKS to their commitment and dedication eight young South Lanarkshire people have achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

They attended a special awards presentation at The Palace of Holyroodhouse, hosted by HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex and the awards were presented by 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medallist for badminton, Kirsty Gilmour from Bothwell.

Twelve months of hard work and effort by the pupils went into attaining their awards as they completed the five sections required - volunteering, skill, physical, a five-day residential course and four-day expedition.

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards were presented to Kirsty Brown and Caitlin Ford from the Hamilton Information Project for Youth HIPY/Strathaven Academy group; Harry Williams, Jennifer Pirie and Rachael Keeley from Duncanrig Secondary School; Rachael Rice, Hannah Robertson and Robert Hamilton from Stonelaw High School.

Also completing this year but unable to attend the ceremony were Catherine Alexander, Erin McCann and Jennifer Sweeney from Stonelaw High and Neil



Maclaren from the HIPY/Strathaven Academy group

HRH Prince Edward made special mention of the dedication and commitment of Duke of Edinburgh leaders, parents and support teams in helping the

young people to achieve their goal.

Anne Donaldson, Head of Education (Inclusion) said: "Our congratulations go to each of the young people whose success was celebrated at the awards presentation.

"The achievement of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award by our young people is highly impressive. They have all worked extremely hard and the award is quality evidence of their sustained hard work, positive attitude and commitment."

**GOLD STARS:** Pictured (left to right) are: Harry Williams, Rachael Keeley, Jennifer Pirie from Duncanrig High, Kirsty Gilmour, 2014 Commonwealth Silver Medallist, Robert Hamilton, Hannah Robertson, Rachael Rice from Stonelaw High, Kirsty Brown, Caitlin Ford from Hamilton Information Project for Youth (HIPY)/Strathaven Academy group. Unable to attend the ceremony were Catherine Alexander, Erin McCann and Jennifer Sweeney, Stonelaw High and Neil Maclaren, HIPY/Strathaven Academy.





# Chance encounter results in new show which offers hope

By Andy Livingstone

**A** CHANCE conversation with a homeless man in Hamilton has resulted in a full-blown play running in a Glasgow theatre.

South Lanarkshire Council blacksmith Alan Brady spent his days hammering metal and his nights hammering on a keyboard after the idea for a play depicting different aspects of homelessness came into his head.

Alan (50) remembered: "I was out running to train for a marathon and came across a homeless guy who is familiar to many in Hamilton as he is distinctive in his yellow waterproof. I realised I had seen him a lot over time but knew nothing about him, so I stopped and asked him his name.

"Tam was amazed that someone was actually interested in his name and we got talking. We spoke about his typical day and I was shocked to discover that he needs £11.50 every single day just to get a bed.

"It sparked the idea for a play and, as I ran from then on, I began to get thoughts of characters and a plot, so I started training with a dictaphone in my hand and it all grew from there.

"I became obsessed and at times would stay up all night working on it until I had the basis of it written."

Alan had always had an interest in drama, making up plays as a youngster, but growing up in Easterhouse he felt awkward about telling anyone what he was doing.

After he met his wife and moved to Hamilton, however, he heard about the locally-based Bright Lights theatre company and performed in pantomime with them for a couple of seasons before leaving to form his own company, Our Time Theatre Group.

Now Our Time is presenting his play, Turn a Different Corner, two years after his chance meeting with homeless man Tam.

# Blacksmith Alan makes a play to raise homeless issues



**PLAY ON WORDS:** Alan Brady outside Websters Theatre, where his play will run later this month.

Running at Glasgow's Websters Theatre, it has been described as a darkly comedic play with a musical element, and a real gritty Glaswegian feel.

It tells the story of a young man, Charlie, who is given a second chance by the legal system and follows his subsequent journey. Coming into close contact with four homeless people, he is forced to look at and re-assess his own life and his attitudes, and poses questions and new challenges.

Alan explained: "It is a 'coming of age' for the young man and a delve into the despair, loneliness, and isolation of being destitute.

"Each of the four people who Charlie meets represents an

aspect of homelessness that is helped by a certain charity: the Moira Anderson Foundation, Soldiers of the Street, Crisis and The Compassionate Friends and we are looking to boost understanding of the tremendous work done by these organisations, as well as that of overall homeless charity Emmaus, as much as we can.

"It's not all heavy going, though – some light-hearted relief is provided by Sadie the cleaner, who compulsively auditions for X Factor and uses the four homeless people as judges when

she practises.

"It is more than a play – it not only raises awareness of these charities but also gives the message that beyond the despair there is hope."

■ Turn a Different Corner will run from Tuesday, September 29, to Saturday, October 3, and is suitable for adults and children aged 15 and upwards. Tickets cost from £8 to £10 and are available online from [www.webstersglasgow.com](http://www.webstersglasgow.com) or by calling the box office on 0141 357 4000.







# Recycling means nothing is going

By Mhairi Anderson

**A** HAMILTON family has embraced the new waste and recycling service that has been rolled out across the area.

The new recycling bins and food waste caddies meant changes to the way waste is collected.

South Lanarkshire Council, along with all other local authorities, has a statutory obligation to provide a separate food waste collection service.

Hamilton resident Mandy McAteer and her family felt the new bin and food waste system might be a bit of a challenge as there was so much to consider, including what goes out when. However, thanks to the information book, calendar and sticker provided, they have found it to be so much simpler than they anticipated.

Mandy said: "Our whole family has always been keen recyclers and the children especially remind us what goes where. The new system is easy to follow and it's good to know that any food waste is going to good use and going back into the ground as compost. Separating the paper and card is the best way to keep it clean for recycling too.

"We feel it's important that we preserve the planet for future generations."

Recycling helps the economy by creating jobs locally as well as in the Scottish recycling industry. It is more efficient, uses less energy and reduces carbon emissions compared to using raw materials.

Mandy, her partner Paul Lafferty and their children are keen to get in on the act and help mum and dad to sort out their recycling.

Six year old Charlie Lafferty said: "It's the best way to keep the world clean and



it's very important that we do it."

Sister Emma, who is seven, said: "We can re-use our stuff again and it's good not to bury it. Our cans can be turned into bikes for us to have fun."

Older sister, nine year old Sophie, summed up for the family: "Recycling saves energy because the manufacturers

don't have to produce something from raw natural resources which helps to save our planet. It's a must."

Councils have to pay landfill tax to the Government for every tonne of waste they send to be buried.

Recycled plastic products can be used to make, among other things, fibre fillings

for sleeping bags and duvets, fleece jumpers and football shirts.

Cans and bottles can become new cans and bottles and thanks to the new food and garden waste collection, which is treated and made into compost, South Lanarkshire's parks and landscaped areas benefit too.

The booklet provided by the council gives clear information on what you can and can't recycle.

Normal uplift days don't change and burgundy food and garden waste bins, along with the new light grey bin, will be collected on the same day of the week. The only change will be how frequently different recycling bins are collected. Blue and light grey bins will be uplifted every four weeks and the burgundy and domestic black/green bins every two weeks.

Information on uplift dates can be found at the back of the information booklet supplied with the food waste caddy and via the home page of the council's website - [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

This Autumn the new, improved food waste recycling service will be rolled out to flats in the Hamilton area when residents will receive their burgundy food waste kitchen caddies, liners and information packs. Communal,



**RECYCLE THIS:** Mandy, Paul and their children are rising to the challenge of recycling. Sophie (far right) shows how it is done. Just some of the many products (left) that can be recycled.



**Homes in the East Kilbride area will receive the new service in early 2016, Rutherglen and Cambuslang areas mid-2016 and Ferniegair, Larkhall, Ashgill, Stonehouse together with the towns and villages in the Clydesdale area by the end of 2016.**





# next to to 'waste'

## The suitable refuse for each bin is as follows:

- Clean paper and card goes into the blue bin.
- Glass, cans, plastics bottles and containers, empty aerosols, even clean aluminium foil goes into the new light grey bin
- Garden waste, which should not be bagged, and cooked or uncooked food waste, which can be put in on its own or in the free biodegradable liners provided, go together into the burgundy bin
- Large items of garden waste such as tree trunks or hedge cuttings will still be uplifted free of charge however they must be tied and left un-bagged
- All other waste, such as plastic bags or wrappers, polystyrene or polythene, light bulbs, pyrex or ceramics, nappies and other non-recyclable waste should continue to be put in the black or green domestic waste bin



outdoor food waste bins will also be delivered to each block. People who live in flatted properties should continue to recycle, plastic, cans, aerosols, paper and cardboard etc, as normal in their blue bins and present this for uplift on their usual recycling day. There are no immediate plans to change the content of the blue bins from flatted properties to paper and cardboard only.

Homes in the East Kilbride area will receive the new service in early 2016, Rutherglen and Cambuslang areas mid-2016 and Ferniegair, Larkhall, Ashgill, Stonehouse together with the towns and villages in the Clydesdale area by the end of 2016.

Stephen Kelly, Head of Facilities, Waste & Ground Services said: "The implementation of the new waste and recycling system is a massive operational exercise. Although we know there may be some initial glitches in delivery and uplift, we hope that you, our residents, will bear with us as we do our utmost to complete the changes as smoothly as possible."

All areas in South Lanarkshire, houses and flats, will be included in the new scheme by the end of 2016.

The move will help the council to meet Scottish Government recycling targets of 60% by 2020.



# Weddings of distinction



Chatelheraut



The Town House Hamilton



Lanark Memorial Hall



Low Parks



Rutherglen Town Hall

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Your wedding will be one of the most important days of your life and with our unique venues, each set at the heart of South Lanarkshire's rich heritage, you can be confident that it will be perfect.

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