

**HOST:** Fiona Bruce and the Antiques Roadshow team attracted thousands of visitors to New Lanark over the summer.  
**See page 4 for details**

# BEST EVER RESULTS BRING CHEER FOR PUPILS

**P**UPILS across South Lanarkshire are celebrating unprecedented success in this year's exams.

The council's Executive Director of Education, Jim Gilhooly, said the results were "the best ever achieved by young people right across national and vocational qualifications".

The pass rate for all Highers was an impressive 77 per cent and at Advanced Higher the figure was even better with an 81 per cent success among pupils.

National 4 and 5 results were also higher than the previous year, with 95 per cent and 81 per cent pass rates respectively.

Mr Gilhooly added: "I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work that has helped deliver unprecedented school exam success across South Lanarkshire.

"The hard work of pupils and the support of their parents and carers were key in this success, and we acknowledge the efforts of our teachers and school support staff, who prepared our young people so well for their courses, assessments and qualifications system.

"This set of results shows our schools are equipping our young people with the skills, experience and attributes they need for the world of work or further study."



**DELIGHTED:** Cathkin twins Sophie and Fraser Allardyce shared 10 Highers between them

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

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## INSIDESTORY PARKLIFE



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Green space is vital to the health and wellbeing of local communities

## EDUCATION AWARD



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Danielle's commitment, leadership and enthusiasm impressed the judges

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# For the first time more than 30 per cent of sixth year pupils finished their school career with five or more Highers

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qualifications and awards.

“It is a reward for all their hard work and periods of study and the support provided by our teachers.”

Breaking down the results even further, for the first time more than 30 per cent of sixth year pupils finished their school career with five or more Highers.

The performance of fifth year pupils further enhanced the magnificent set of results, with 57 per cent achieving one or more Highers.

Mr Gilhooly added that even if some pupils had not received the results they had hoped for, they should remain positive.

He said: “Exam results are important but they need to be considered in the

**As a school we are very pleased with our pupils performance in this year's exams and the results are testament to the hard work put in throughout the year**

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.

“While 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.”

Among those celebrating success were twins Fraser and Sophie Allardyce.

The 17 year old Cathkin High School pupils achieved a total of 10 Highers with Fraser gaining straight As in Maths, Physics, English, Biology and Graphic Communication and Sophie As in English, Maths, Music and Art and a B in Biology.

Depute Head Teacher Kevin McConnachie said: “As a school we are very pleased with our pupils performance in this year's exams and the results are testament to the hard work put in throughout the year.



**HIGH FIVE:**  
Sophie and Fraser excelled in this year's exams

“Fraser and Sophie undoubtedly benefitted from our Higher Mentor programme which is designed to allow teachers to work with small groups of pupils through the year to help keep them on course to achieve the best results they can.”

The twins are staying on at Cathkin for their sixth year, each sitting a further two Highers and one Advanced Higher.

Fraser, who is aiming for a career in

engineering, said: “The academic pressure will be a little lower this year and I am looking forward to the challenges of taking on the leadership roles within the school that are expected of senior pupils.”

Sophie, who plans to go to art school and study design, said: “I think we both feel the mentor programme was a real help throughout the year. We studied hard and the support ensured we stayed on track.”

## BLANTYRE Q AND A MOVING TO NEWLY REFURBISHED LIBRARY

BLANTYRE Q and A is moving to a new location in the town's library next week as part of a modernisation of the service.

As of Monday, 29 August, the Q and A will operate from the newly refurbished Blantyre Library in Clydeview Shopping Centre. As part of the move, the modernised facility has been redesigned to connect customers to council services through computer and phone booths that are free and easy to use.

A Customer Service Assistant (CSA) will

still be on hand to advise customers on the best way to carry out their business with the council – which might be online or by speaking directly to the relevant service.

Blantyre Library re-opened recently following a refurbishment that includes a complete re-decoration with a new comfortable seating area, as well as new Active IT workstations and chairs. An improved floor plan also gives more space and accessibility, as well as accommodating the new Q and A.

**The Q and A's new location at Blantyre Library will also mean a change in opening hours:**

- Monday - 9.15am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.45pm
- Tuesday - 9.15am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.45pm
- Wednesday - 9.15am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.45pm
- Thursday - 1.15pm to 4.45pm
- Friday - 10.00am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.45pm

Blantyre is one of four Q and A's modernising this year as part of a wider review to improve customer access to the council, which also includes phone systems, web and text services.



**SUPPORT:**  
Councillor Hamilton is backing the campaign

# FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO THINK ABOUT ADOPTION

BY SARAH BURROWS

**S**OUTH Lanarkshire Council have launched a new campaign, **Find 40 Families, to encourage our residents to consider adopting children who can no longer live with their birth families.**

The campaign, with a target of finding 40 adoptive families in the next 12 months, is backed by Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Depute Chair of Social Work Resources and member of the South Lanarkshire Fostering and Adoption Panel.

She said: "I am delighted to support this campaign which would mean that 40 babies or children would be matched with their forever family in the next 12 months.

"Adoption is an option for many different family make-ups and indeed for single people.

"There's a myth that there are all sorts of barriers to adoption and this is not the case.

"We aim to make the process as smooth as possible for applicants, with a view to ensuring that children get their loving home as quickly as possible. And all you have to do to start the process is request an information pack."

The council is looking for enquiries from single people, couples, families who

**We aim to make the process as smooth as possible for applicants, with a view to ensuring that children get their loving home as quickly as possible.**

have children of their own, and same sex couples who have been living together for more than two years.

All applicants must be over 21 years of age and should be able to parent a child until adulthood.

Once you have received your

information pack, a social worker will call to arrange a visit, at a time that suits you, to discuss the process further.

If you do decide to progress you will be invited to preparatory groups where you will be given more information and have an opportunity to ask more questions.

Following the preparatory groups, you will be asked if you wish to proceed. A social worker will be allocated to undertake an assessment of you and your family. They will support you through the process and will discuss their recommendation to the Adoption Panel with you. South Lanarkshire Council also offers a range of post adoption supports to adopters.

■ **To get a pack or for further details please log on to the council's website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or call 0303 123 1008**

■ **To follow the campaign on twitter use #slcfind40**

## Summer of Sport captures Olympic spirit

HAMILTON town centre was the place to be recently for a celebration of a 'Summer of Sport'.

And with the likes of Andy Murray, Usain Bolt, Mo Farah and Max Whitlock showcasing the peak of sporting achievement at the Rio Olympics, the organisers went all out to show that even a little activity can bring huge benefits.

Organised jointly by the Hamilton BID, local sport clubs, and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC), the free taster event lined up an exciting programme of sporting activity throughout the town centre.

Regent Shopping Centre, Quarry Street and Castle Street were a hub of activity, showcasing widespread sporting opportunities.

Local sports clubs delivered free sessions in basketball, athletics, hockey, gymnastics,



**ON THE BALL:** One youngster shows his skills during the celebrations

martial arts and tennis and SLLC were on hand with info on children's activities, fitness memberships, health initiatives and older adult activities.

There was also free face-painting for children, raffles with fantastic prizes and DJs creating a 'Rio-tastic' atmosphere.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Board of SLLC, was delighted at the turnout, adding: "Our aim was to show that opportunities abound in Hamilton whether you're a budding Olympian or just want to have fun, and I thank everyone who took the time to come along and make the event such a success. Special mention must go to Hamilton Gymnastics, Reach for the Sky Basketball, Hamilton District Athletics Club and Hibarikan Judo for giving their time and energy."



## VOTERS REMINDED TO REGISTER

SOUTH Lanarkshire residents are being urged to ensure they register to vote.

Household Enquiry Forms (HEF) are being sent out to each home as the annual voter registration canvass gets underway.

Residents should complete the form issued to them and return it as

soon as possible to ensure that they will remain on the electoral register and are able to vote in any future elections.

It is essential residents check that their details are correct, amend these details where necessary and send the form back.

Households are encouraged

to use a freephone service if their details have not changed, or the online facility where there are changes. The use of these services not only makes confirming details easier, it also saves money compared to the costs of returning the paper form through the post.

This year's canvass is again

looking to capture the details of young persons who will be 16 by 30 November 2017 – details are contained within the form.

Residents are also being reminded that credit reference agencies use the electoral register as a check when assessing credit applications. Therefore if people are

not on the register, their ability to access credit may be affected.

Please note that a fine up to £1000 may be imposed for failing to supply the information.

Anyone who has any queries with the form should contact the Lanarkshire Electoral Registration office on freephone 0800 030 4333.



## Mental health project to be piloted in Lanarkshire

A NATIONAL mental health project that seeks to deliver an 'ask once - get help fast' service for people in distress is to be piloted in Lanarkshire.

Known as Distress Brief Intervention (DBI), staff across a wide range of agencies will be trained to help people in distress manage difficult emotions and problem situations at the earliest possible stage.

People will then be supported to overcome their immediate challenges and develop ways to look after their well-being, preventing future distress.

The Minister for Mental Health, Maureen Watt, announced that Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire (H&SCNL) and South Lanarkshire Health & Social Care Partnership (SLH&SCP) have been selected to host the national DBI team on behalf of the Government. The Lanarkshire partnerships will also join four other partnerships across Scotland as a test site for the programme.

General Manager for Mental Health and Learning Disability Services in Lanarkshire, Paula Macleod, said: "The aim of DBI is to listen, learn, understand and share how we can provide more coordinated, consistent and compassionate responses to people who experience distress across Lanarkshire and Scotland.

"We want to do this in a way that really makes a difference to people's lives, their families and friends."

Harry Stevenson, Chief Officer of SLH&SCP said: "This initiative will help ensure there is no wrong door for those in distress, whether they approach social work, health or partner organisations such as the police or ambulance service.

"The DBI will build on the well established spirit of joined up, coordinated working, placing the person at the centre of everything we do."

## New Lanark hosts antique show

SUNDAY night TV staple the Antiques Roadshow attracted more than 2000 visitors to the World Heritage site at New Lanark over the summer.

Presenter Fiona Bruce and the team of 30 experts sifted through a staggering array of paintings, furniture and other family heirlooms.

Each visitor was no doubt hoping their particular item would be worth thousands of pounds, but it is doubtful that anything would be more valuable than the star attraction – the Lanark Silver Bell. The oldest known horse racing trophy in the world, the Silver Bell is truly unique and more than 400 years old.

Host Fiona said: "We never know who or what is going to turn up on the day.

"The visitors, the objects they bring, their stories and the location all combine to make a fabulous experience that we aim to capture for the viewers."

# Good quality green space is vital to the health a

# PARKS THE

**T**HREE parks in South Lanarkshire have scooped a prestigious award which recognises high standards and quality outdoor space.

Castlebank Park in Lanark, Cambuslang Park and Strathaven Park have been presented with a Green Flag award from environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful.

The Green Flag Award, administered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful, is a benchmark for quality green space. The winning South Lanarkshire parks, run by the council and assisted by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd at Strathaven Park, join almost 70 others from across the country that are celebrating receiving the award.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Council's Community Services Committee and of the Board of South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture, said: "We are delighted this year to have three parks in South Lanarkshire awarded the Green Flag status.

"This recognises the standards that we work to in ensuring our parks are safe and clean places to visit, promoting healthy and enjoyable lifestyles."

All parks are assessed by volunteer

**These awards are testament to the hard work everyone in the community has put in – there is a real sense of pride which people take in their local parks**

judges with a background in park management, conservation or ecology. Applicants are judged against testing criteria which includes assessing whether the park or green space is welcoming, safe, well-maintained and secure.

Dr Lindsay Montgomery, CBE, Chairman of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: "Good quality green space is vital to the health and wellbeing of local communities, families and individuals – that is why it is fantastic to see Scotland's parks and green spaces going from strength to strength.

"More Scottish parks are flying the Green Flag Award than ever before. This record breaking number is a testament to the hard work and determination of park managers, local authorities and



**FUN TIME:** Amelia and Max Barrington enjoy the playpark in Castlebank Park (main pic), Joseph Gallagher and Dominic Hensler at Cambuslang Park (above). The stunning views from Castlebank Park (right).

volunteers.

"It is great to see such a concerted effort across Scotland to improve our open spaces. We are proud of all our award winners, who work year round, to make Scotland's parks and public spaces beautiful."

The success of the parks in achieving the Green Flag awards is thanks to a unique partnership approach with the local community. Each park has a "Friends of..." group which is made up of local people who volunteer and assist with the numerous tasks required to ensure the



# and wellbeing of local communities, families and individuals

# WAY TO DO IT



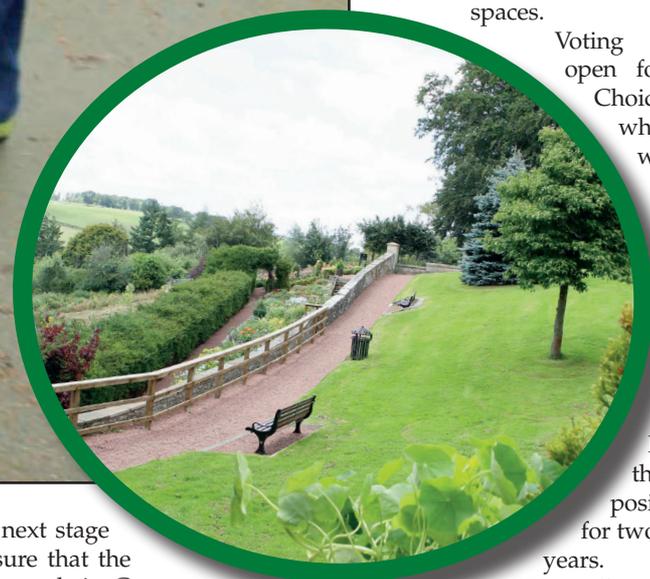
even more parks in South Lanarkshire with the award in the future."

One of the young people enjoying the parks recently was nine-year-old Sam Mitchell. Sam, pictured above in Strathaven Park, said: "I really enjoy coming here, there is so much to do and it always looks very nice."

Keep Scotland Beautiful delivers the Green Flag Award scheme in Scotland, and has done since 2013. Working as part of a UK wide partnership, with Keep Britain Tidy, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and Keep Wales Tidy, the Green Flag Award scheme is the international benchmark standard for parks and green spaces.

Voting will soon be open for the People's Choice awards, which is a UK-wide competition where people can vote for their favourite park. The top 10 are then revealed on the Green Flag website and Strathaven Park has been in the number one position in Scotland for two of the last three years.

Councillor Stewart added: "We encourage all our park users in South Lanarkshire to vote for us in the People's Choice Awards if they are as proud of their park as we are."



Green Flag criteria is met.

They have management plans in place which are overseen by the council and aim to enhance and improve how the park is used.

Head of the council's facilities, waste and grounds services, Alastair McKinnon, said: "These awards are testament to the

hard work everyone in the community has put in – there is a real sense of pride which people take in their local parks.

"We are always delighted to work with local groups and organisations on projects like this and the hard work has been rewarded with the Green Flag award.

"The next stage is to ensure that the parks keep their Green Flag status – but I have no doubt if everyone shows the same level of commitment and hard work we will be able to achieve that and perhaps have



# TOP MARKS FOR DANIELLE AT EDUCATION OSCARS

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

**S**OUTH Lanarkshire's Danielle Timmons has been named 'Teacher of the Year' at the prestigious Scottish Education Awards 2016.

The 30-year-old, Depute Head at St Vincent's Primary School in East Kilbride, impressed the judges ahead of two other finalists, both from the secondary school sector. She will now go forward to represent Scotland at the UK finals in London in October.

But no-one holds her in higher esteem than her colleagues of nine years at St Vincent's who describe her as "both exceptional and unique".

Head Teacher, Eileen Tompkins, said: "Put simply, Danielle is an example to us all, she has a 'why not' attitude that sees her go above and beyond on behalf of the children and the school community.

"For example, we are the only school in Scotland to be in the final for the Rolls Royce science prize, our choir has grown from strength to strength and we have moved on leaps and bounds in terms of

**All of this is down to Danielle's commitment, leadership and enthusiasm. In my eyes there was only ever one winner of this award**

our technology and social media skills. We've even had the parents out stargazing at midnight.

"All of this is down to Danielle's commitment, leadership and enthusiasm. In my eyes there was only ever one winner of this award, and we are so proud of her."

For Danielle, it was "a huge surprise". She laughs: "I really didn't think it was possible, but I was still really nervous at the ceremony. In fact I could hardly eat or enjoy it as my category was almost at the end. It was lovely, but scary..."

Modestly, she adds that the award is entirely a team effort, and would not have been possible without the "amazing kids at this school".

She said: "I have such a good relationship with them, and I want to do



**SUCCESS:** Danielle was delighted to scoop the prestigious award

things for them. They are such a part of me, like my extended family. And it was so lovely how delighted they were for me when I won, as were my colleagues. I am

excited about the UK ceremony in October but I really believe that teaching these wonderful children is the biggest reward of all."

## Support for carers recognised

A NATIONAL award for employers who support carers within their workforce has been presented to South Lanarkshire Council.

The Carer Positive award presented to employers in Scotland who have a working environment where carers are valued and supported.

In the face of supporting an ill, frail or disabled family member, friend or partner many carers give up work, but with the right support they could be given the opportunity to stay on, allowing employers to retain valuable individual knowledge, experience and training.

The council joins a growing band of public and private sector employers leading the way in recognising the value of ensuring support is available for carers to help them balance the demands of work and caring responsibilities.

Speaking at the award presentation Depute Chair of Finance and Corporate Resources Councillor Margaret Cooper said:



**AWARD:** The certificate was accepted by Councillor Margaret Cooper (centre) on behalf of the council, along with Simon Cameron (SLC) Fiona Collie of Carers Scotland, Clair Brown and Suzanne Berkley (both SLC)

"I am proud to accept this award on behalf of the council, our responsibility to assist and support carers is taken very seriously and this is recognition that as an employer we are helping people stay at work and balance their career and their caring."

Chair of the Caring Matters Employee Forum Clair Brown said: "There are a lot of policies and arrangements in place that can help carers working for South Lanarkshire in their day-to-day life and work and I hope this award will not only serve as recognition of that but will also encourage colleagues with caring responsibilities to speak to their manager or contact the personnel helpline and find out more."

## Buildings improved by CARS scheme



IMPROVEMENTS to several buildings and notable landmarks in Strathaven can now get underway thanks to a £625,000 Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme.

Earlier this year Historic Scotland (now Historic Environment Scotland), announced that an award had been made to South Lanarkshire Council, which will be invested in a conservation project in Strathaven.

Since the announcement, which was preceded by a comprehensive consultation

process within Strathaven, preparation for the active phases of the project has been underway.

South Lanarkshire Council working alongside local community representatives, will act as project managers on behalf of the initiative and a further round of surveys of shop fronts will be undertaken in preparation for consultation with shop occupiers/owners.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Enterprise Services Committee, Councillor

Chris Thompson, said: "I am delighted that we have secured this funding which will improve many of the buildings and public realms within the Strathaven Conservation Area.

"The training and skills in classical repair application will also, I am sure, be very useful to those people who are identified to take part in that programme."

Jennifer Storr, Project Manager for Historic Environment Scotland, said: "When

awarding CARS funding, our priority is to support projects focussing on the wider contribution the historic environment brings to communities.

"We are delighted to be providing £625,000 of funding to South Lanarkshire Council over the next five years, enabling them to deliver this project which has strong support from the local community who wish to see the town's heritage safeguarded for the future."



# EMPLOYERS BOOSTED BY COUNCIL SUPPORT

**A**N industrial welding firm in Cambuslang has almost doubled its workforce in just two years with the backing of South Lanarkshire Council's business support service.

In addition to going from a staff of 13 to 23 Walkerweld Engineering also increased turnover by around 50% from 2014-2016 and launched a new apprenticeship scheme creating opportunities for local young people.

South Lanarkshire Council played a key part in the company's remarkable story providing business support grants totalling £31,275.

Well established and offering highly skilled and highly specialised expertise in welding, fabrication and plant repair services to diverse industries including rail, construction and marine, Walkerweld, as with many others across Scotland and beyond, was hit by the slump facing the oil industry.

Manager Jim Stevenson, a past president of the Scottish Rugby Union, came out of retirement two years ago to join Walkerweld. He said: "When I started I immediately saw that we had a lot of strength in the team and a little slack in a usually full order book that gave us the opportunity to diversify quickly and allow the business to thrive. That is when I first approached South Lanarkshire Council's Business Support Team and their help has been incredible."

Since 2014 Walkerweld has put a total of £122,000 into recruitment, training, equipment and workplace improvement and expansion, with South Lanarkshire Council supporting an investment that has created 10 new engineering jobs in Cambuslang. It has also launched a new apprenticeship programme and the opportunity for more as the company continues to grow.

Councillor Chris Thompson, Chair of the council's Enterprise Services committee, said: "Walkerweld had come to us for support with a vision of how the business could grow. Our Business Support Team had the knowledge and expertise to deliver the right support to benefit them as a business and the community by creating jobs and opportunities."

"The grant support is in many ways the tip of the iceberg with the professional advice, support and encouragement the team provides aimed at getting the best for the business, the best for the local economy and the best for the community."



**RELIABLE:** Highlander International are the largest independent paper recycler in the country



#### THRIVING:

Business is booming at Walkerweld, as apprentice Baz Kennedy is shown the ropes by Martin Sloan

**Businesses across South Lanarkshire can take advantage of a range of supports the council has to offer – not just financial but also advice, support and encouragement. Here Lynne Carstairs and Andrew Thompson speak to two firms who have benefitted from the specialist advice of the council's business support team.**

**S**OUTH Lanarkshire Council has supported investment and job creation at an East Kilbride recycling plant to the tune of £20,000.

Highlander International are Scotland's largest independent paper recycler, located on the former site of John W Hannay in the town's Linwood Avenue, and supply a broad range of markets across the UK and mainland Europe, for the re-processing of recovered materials.

Now, thanks to a tie up with the council's Business Support Team, the company has been able to access grants and financial support enabling them to invest in bigger and better infrastructure, and create new jobs.

Indeed business support grants totalling more than £20,000 in the last three years have enabled Highlander International to increase turnover and profitability and create

employment opportunities – as many as eight new posts by the end of 2016.

Managing directors Brian Bingham and Stephen Duffy first approached the council in 2013 when they were looking to invest a six figure sum in new equipment.

Explained Brian: "At this point we were proposing a significant investment in the plant, in East Kilbride and in the local job market, so naturally the council was our first stop when seeking advice and support."

"The time, expertise and financial help given to us by South Lanarkshire was invaluable. With their support we were able to invest in areas such as building improvements, employment and training. East Kilbride has in the past played a major part in the paper recycling industry, and we are proud to bring this back to the town, offering local business a reliable service for all types of paper recycling."

Councillor Chris Thompson,

Chair of the council's Enterprise Services committee, called Highlander's partnership with the council, a true success story.

He added: "There is so much to be gained from working with us, on both a financial and practical level, and the year-on-year investment and job creation at Highlander International is testament to that."

"I would urge as many business as possible – big or small – who are already operating in South Lanarkshire or are keen to locate here, to get in touch."

And Brian agrees wholeheartedly, adding: "Our experience of working with the Business Support Team has been hugely positive, and the grants and advice we have been able to access have played a large part in our current success."

■ **South Lanarkshire Council offers impartial, practical advice for starting or growing your business. Get in touch: [business.support@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)**



# SPORTS STARS CROWNED

**T**HE annual South Lanarkshire Council Sports Awards has honoured the area's top sporting men, women, young athletes and coaches.

The event provides an opportunity for South Lanarkshire to showcase its talented performers and coaches who are already successful local Sports Council Award winners.

The winners of South Lanarkshire's Sports Awards were:

- **Coach of the Year - Brian Ross, Senior Games Coach with Lanark and Upperward Pony Club;**
- **Senior Female Performer - Athlete Emma Canning from East Kilbride;**
- **Senior Male Performer - Rowing's Graham Ord from Hamilton;**
- **Junior Female Performer - East Kilbride Swimmer Meg Finnon; and**
- **Junior Male Performer - East Kilbride Athlete Aidan Gilbride.**

South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture, which operates sports, recreational and cultural facilities on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council, hosted the 17th annual Sports Awards ceremony.

General Manager Gerry Campbell said: "The awards are about recognising achievement in sport but they are also about highlighting the valuable work undertaken



**WINNERS:** Diane McDonald (accepting coach of the Year Award on behalf of Brian Ross) Meg Finnon (Junior female), Councillor Hamish Stewart, Depute Provost Pam Clearie, Graham Ord (Senior Male) and Brian Gilbride (accepting award on behalf of his son Aidan Gilbride - Junior male winner)

by volunteers, clubs and a range of other organisations who work very closely with SLLC and SLC to promote sport and physical activity.

"This year's awards are also about celebrating 'Everybody Active in South Lanarkshire' and we have showcased some great examples of members of the community who are making a commitment to be physical active. In addition to this, we have also taken the opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of some of South Lanarkshire's aspiring talented young athletes, celebrating the success of Swimmer Adam Donnachie, gymnast Rebecca Dunn and Netballer Niamh McCall."

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the council's Community Services Committee and Chair of the Board of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, formally welcomed

guests to the ceremony at the Hamilton Town House. Councillor Stewart said: "The ceremony is about celebrating success - success of our athletes and our coaches - whilst also recognising the crucial role played by parents, families, teachers and volunteers. We commended their dedication and commitment the inspiration they provide."

Trophies were presented on the night by Deputy Provost, Pam Clearie, who said: "Tonight has been a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge all the excellent achievements and sporting stars from across South Lanarkshire. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to succeed to the level that our award winners have achieved this year and I'm sure they will continue to go forward and achieve even greater heights in the years ahead."

## Over 50s urged to get Active

A PROJECT aimed at helping the over 50s to stay fit and active is now offering sessions across South Lanarkshire.

Devised by the council's Seniors Together team and delivered by their volunteers, along with volunteers from Forward @fifty, Active events run weekly in Larkhall, Blantyre, Uddingston, Carluke and Hamilton as follows:

- **Active Tuesday - 9:30-11:30am, Blantyre Leisure Centre**
- **Active Wednesday - 9.30-11.30am, Larkhall Leisure Centre**
- **Active Thursday 9.30-11.30am - Jock Stein Centre, Hillhouse**
- **Active Friday - 10am-noon, Carluke Leisure Centre**

Christine Calder, Seniors Together Project Manager, said: "At the beginning of each session, participants are welcomed by older volunteers before taking part in a short warm up. Then we kick off a varied programme of activities, some led by coaches from South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC)."

Active sessions are free to SLLC Activeage card holders or cost £5.20 (£2.60 concession) per class.

## fostering in South Lanarkshire

### Our children need you!

South Lanarkshire Council is recruiting enthusiastic and committed individuals and families who are able to care for children, of all ages, who cannot be cared for by their birth families.

Some children will need a long term family placement until adulthood and some children will need a temporary family placement until they are able to return to their birth families.



Foster carers come from all walks of life and can be single or a couple. The only specific requirements are that you are over 21 years of age and have at least one spare bedroom to accommodate a child. You will receive comprehensive training and support from qualified and experienced social workers before and after you have been approved.

#slcfoster

If you feel that you have something to offer please contact the duty social worker in the Family Placement Team on 0303 123 1008 or email [familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:familyplacement@southlanarkshire.gcsx.gov.uk)