



The View

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council

WINTER 2016

EARLY SURPRISE: Lewis Kirkwood, Nikita Muir, Nathan Cassells (all aged 4) and three-year-old Freya Gregory



HO HO
SNOW

CHRISTMAS has come early for the children of Hamilton's Hollandbush Nursery. Not only have they just moved into a brand new, purpose-built £4.1m building, but Santa himself recently dropped by to see the amazing new campus for himself.

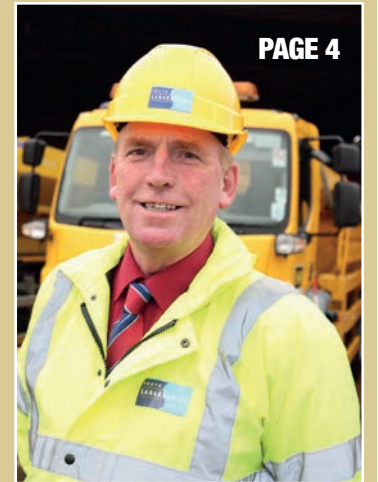
Following his surprise visit where he met little festive elves Lewis, Nikita, Nathan and

Freya, Santa is off to take up residence at Low Parks Museum. Families can visit him in his festive grotto on the weekends of 10 and 17 December. There is also the chance to enjoy both breakfast and afternoon tea with Santa this year.

■ For full details and tickets go to www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk

INSIDESTORY ROADSALERT

PAGE 4



The importance of being prepared as the winter months take hold

ADOPTIONJOY



PAGE 6

Children just need love, support and security

GREATRESPECT



Lion-hearted Bobby Murdoch is remembered with nothing but affection

HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUDGET PLANS

PROPOSALS are being considered which are designed to try to protect key frontline services as far as possible, despite pressures on South Lanarkshire Council's budget.

Councillors were told at a recent Executive Committee meeting that a further significant reduction was expected in the grant received from the Scottish Government, and that as much as £22.461 million in savings

would need to be found in the next financial year.

A series of proposals to meet that target was presented to the committee, which decided to continue discussions on the subject until 14 December.

This will allow further consideration, including a period of public consultation.

Council Leader Eddie McAvoy said: "The council still has a significant budget of £660m, but these latest savings come on top of years of

previous efficiencies. In fact, in recent years the council has been forced to take more than £120m out of its budget.

"We have always tried to protect the key frontline services that local people rely upon, and we will continue to do that. But our services are already delivered efficiently and we are now long past the point of being able to trim without causing pain.

"We don't expect to be told by the

► Turn to Page 2



USEFUL CONTACTS

Editor

Tom Little

News editor

James Davitt
01698 454747

Cover photograph

Anne-Janine Nugent

Publisher

South Lanarkshire Council
Produced by Communications
and Strategy
Floor 7

Council Offices Almada Street
Hamilton ML3 0AA

Phone 01698 454747

For all enquiries:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Payments

Phone 0303 123 1005

Council tax and benefits

Phone 0303 123 1011

Council Tax arrears

Phone 0303 123 1014

Housing repairs

Phone 0303 123 1010

Housing enquiries (except repairs)

Phone 0303 123 1012

Social Work and Money Matters

Phone 0303 123 1008

Refuse, grounds maintenance and street cleansing

Phone 0303 123 1020

Conference and banqueting

Phone 0303 123 1009

Parking

0303 123 1006

Bereavement services (cemeteries and crematorium)

Phone 0303 123 1016

Fraud helpline

Phone 0303 123 1013

For all other enquiries

Phone 0303 123 1015

Out-of-hours emergency repairs

Phone 0800 242 024

Out-of-hours Social Work emergencies

Phone 0303 123 1008

If you are hard of hearing

you can use minicom on

0303 123 1017

If you need this information
in another language or
format, please contact us
to discuss how we can best
meet your needs.
Phone 0303 123 1015
Email: equalities@
southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Councillors will ultimately have to make those tough decisions, but I am calling on local people to help

► From Page 1

Scottish Government what our 2017/18 grant will be until mid-December, but we expect it to fall yet again. We are planning for that eventuality and the bottom line is that the savings we will be forced to make are bound to have a further effect on the services we deliver.

“Councillors will ultimately have to make those tough decisions, but I am calling on local people to let us know what they think too.”

Councillor McAvoy has told residents

Tough decisions will have to be taken once again, but we want local people to work with us to do everything possible to protect key frontline services

the council administration would not put up council tax next year, despite the end of the Scotland-wide “freeze”.

Cllr McAvoy added: “The proposals have been developed by council officers based on the potential savings we might be forced to make.

“These are just options at the moment

Get in touch with your views on budget

Residents can get more information on the budget proposals by visiting the council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/savings and there is a dedicated email address - savings@southlanarkshire.gov.uk - for the submission of comments and suggestions. Representations will also be welcomed by post, to: Savings Consultation, South Lanarkshire Council, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AA.



but we are legally obliged to balance our budget, so if any proposals in the package are rejected we need to find other ways to save the money. There's a responsibility on councillors of all parties to ensure that such alternatives are fully affordable.

“Every saving we make has a potential impact on people in our communities so it is important we get their views too. Tough decisions will have to be taken once again, but we want local people to work with us to do everything possible to protect key frontline services.”

The Executive Committee meeting was told that the total savings requirement for 2017/18 had been based on an assumption that the government grant would fall by 1.6% - and that if the cut was more further savings would have to be found.

Mr McAvoy added that, despite the tough economic climate, South Lanarkshire Council continued to invest in the area, including working towards the completions of the Schools Modernisation Programme, as well as investment in new council homes, care homes for the elderly and local roads.

PUPILS NOD TO HISTORY AS NEW SCHOOL IS OFFICIALLY OPENED

THE new £2.5m Gilmourton Primary School celebrated its official opening recently.

Councillor Margaret Cooper took the honours and unveiled the commemorative plaque, ably assisted by the school's youngest and oldest pupils Eilidh McKinnon and Lewis Wright-Kerr.

And the occasion was a chance for the whole school to showcase their learning as well as the things they love about their new school.

A quick Scottish history lesson was performed by the children through the history of the Covenanters.

P1-P3 pupils sang “Red YoYo” while the whole school sang the “Jeely Piece Song”. P4-P7 pupils also played a “Scottish Medley” on instruments including xylophones, glockenspiels, guitar and accordion.

Headteacher Ellen Jack said: “I was delighted to see so many familiar faces in the audience. The ceremony is the culmination of a great deal of hard work by staff

and children to organise the programme and my thanks go to everyone involved.

“I think the children excelled with their performances with many people on the day commenting how much they had enjoyed the event.”

Councillor Margaret Cooper said: “I was absolutely delighted to be asked to formally open Gilmourton Primary School and took great pleasure in seeing the learning and teaching that goes on in this fabulous new building.

“A special thank you must go to the children of Gilmourton Primary School for putting on a show which they can be proud of. They are a credit to themselves, their parents and of course their school.”

The school was built as part of South Lanarkshire Council's £857 million Primary Schools Modernisation Programme which has seen more than 100 new or refurbished schools for the area to date.



DELIGHTED: Councillor Cooper with oldest and youngest pupils, Lewis Wright-Kerr and Eilidh McKinnon



War memorial service takes place in Hamilton



IN a poignant and moving ceremony, a dedication service was held recently for the new War Memorial in Hamilton.

The memorial commemorates local service personnel who have lost their lives since WW2 and will sit alongside the current cenotaph in Bothwell Road Park, with space to include more than 140 names.

At the ceremony a civic welcome was given by Councillor Davie McLachlan, with a dedication by Rev Ross Blackman of Hamilton Old Parish Church. A prayer was then offered by Father Lamb of St Joseph's Church in Blantyre. The last post was played followed by a two minute silence before wreaths were laid by invited guests. Families of the fallen were also invited to lay wreaths to remember their loved ones. The national anthem was played to conclude the ceremony.

Councillor McLachlan said: "The new memorial is first of all a testament to the brave men and women whose names are engraved on its surface.

"It is a permanent reminder that we should give our thanks to them and that we shall not forget them and what they stand for. Every name represents a person who was dedicated to making this world a better place and they died in service trying to secure freedom and fairness all over the world.

"I also have to pay tribute to their families, they too have shown great bravery and have worked tirelessly to provide a lasting tribute to their loved ones.

"I am very proud as a local Councillor and a member of South Lanarkshire Council that we now have a fitting memorial to the brave men and women whose names will have a lasting and permanent home here in South Lanarkshire."

South Lanarkshire Council came up with the proposal in response to requests from families seeking a way to formally recognise the sacrifice of those who have died since 1945, and the decision was formally approved at a meeting of the Community Services Committee earlier this month.

Extensive discussions have taken place with a number of groups and individuals to ensure that the new memorial was as inclusive as possible, whilst taking account of Forces regulations and protocols.

These included the Royal British Legion (Scotland), The War Memorial Trust, The



REMEMBERING:

Veteran Ian Forsyth was among those paying tribute to the fallen

The new memorial is first of all a testament to the brave men and women whose names are engraved on its surface

Scottish Bereavement Benchmarking Group, the East Kilbride History Society and the families themselves. So far 27 names have been suggested and approved as part of the application process. The new cenotaph will be included in the annual Remembrance Service in November.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Community Services committee, has welcomed the move.

He added: "Sadly, we have lost many local servicemen and women who have served since the end of World War 2. Their sacrifices mean just as much to their families and communities.

"It is with great pride that we now have

a memorial which will provide a lasting memorial to those young men and women who have died in service since 1945. I thank all the groups and individuals who have played their part in making this happen."

Kevin Gray, MM, Chief Executive Officer, Legion Scotland said: "Remembrance is at the heart of what we do and war memorials are an important visual aspect of this. There are war memorials in communities across Scotland providing a fitting tribute to the local service men and women who gave their lives for our country. It is a reminder of the sacrifice many people in our area made in order to protect the lives of future generations."

NEW SCHOOL GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD

PUPILS and staff at Underbank Primary can look forward to a brand new school after planning permission was granted for its construction.

The application for detailed planning permission sought approval to build the new facility on a site between Crossford and Hazelbank that currently is occupied by disused glasshouses and associated boiler houses.

The new school will be a single-storey building in an H shape and will comprise five classrooms, a gym/dining hall, a library, break-out space and office and staff areas.

It will feature a central portion forming an integral courtyard and the classroom wing will face towards the River Clyde.

The entrance to the building will echo the past with an eight-metre high feature that will replicate the appearance of the brick flues of the former boiler houses on the site, and the school will be heated by an environmentally-friendly air-source heat pump system.

Externally, the playground will wrap around three sides of the school and it will have a MUGA (multi-use games area) pitch, hard and soft play areas and car parking with a drop-off area – the last aspect being a significant improvement on the situation at the existing school where access to the grounds is limited to staff and service vehicles, with the new design aiming to negate the need for vehicles to park on the A72, particularly at the end of the school day.

Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Hugh Dunsmuir, said: "This development will provide a modern and attractive building which will serve pupils and staff well, whilst also enhancing facilities for the local community as a whole.

"I am delighted to see this application being approved by committee."



Felling for the future of the landscape

THE future of the nationally important and ancient landscape at Chatelherault Country Park has been saved for future generations by the removal of 18 hectares of commercial plantation conifers.

The large forestry harvesters left the park recently with the felling complete and 6,500 tonnes of conifer timber having been removed.

Malcolm Muir, Countryside and Greenspace Manager, said: "Funds raised through the sale of timber will allow South Lanarkshire Council to undertake an extensive programme of path improvements and re-establishment of some of the historic viewpoints across the gorge, which will be kept clear as the new woodland grows up around them.

"We really appreciate the patience and understanding that visitors have shown over the summer. The felled areas will look a bit bleak at first but will soon green over and we hope that the fantastic views that have been restored will be some compensation.

"One of our first priorities will be to restore the paths to the White Bridge on both sides of the Avon and replace the bridge itself, which has been closed for the last seven years."



Plunging temperatures, snow, high winds and heavy rainfall are s



TEAMWORK: Willie is proud of the way employees pull together during adverse weather

Roads teams ready for big freeze

AS winter 2016 takes hold, the countdown to Christmas is well and truly on. But for a number of South Lanarkshire employees, this marks their busiest time of year. And for the teams on stand-by to keep things moving on our roads, Christmas can present a much different prospect from turkey and gifts.

More than 200 employees from the Roads Service are on call throughout the winter period. For many this means sacrificing Christmas with their families to ensure that, no matter what winter throws our way, the roads stay open.

And in an area as large and diverse as South Lanarkshire this is no mean feat.

Home to the 2nd and 4th largest towns in Scotland – East Kilbride and Hamilton – and a significant rural population, forward planning and team work are the keys to success.

Thanks to a new link-up with the MET Office, the council receives three specialised weather forecasts each day. Based on these, decisions are made about which actions are needed across the network.

Headed up from HQ in Hamilton, teams in four main depots in East Kilbride, Larkhall, Carnwath and Lesmahagow, then plan their gritting schedules for the next 24 hours, working around the clock if need be to ensure main routes are clear.

Willie Hamilton is depot manager at Hawbank, East

Kilbride. After 41 years' local government service, for him and the teams who work out of all four depots, this can mean that Christmas is 'just another day'.

He went on: "There are 62 staff here, almost all of whom take part in the winter rota. It's definitely hardest on those guys with young families, and we do what we can to alternate the rota each year, but for the most part it really is all hands on."

Willie himself, has pulled the winter shift throughout his council career, and admits it can be a tough gig. However, there is real sense of pride in keeping local communities moving, and connected, particularly when conditions get really tough.

Of particular note is the team response to the 'snow event' of December 2010.

Added Willie: "I was on call at the time and in the face of real challenges, South Lanarkshire coped really well, calling on all of our resources to

come up with an effective plan of action. I was very proud of our operatives who worked over and above their normal duties to get and keep the roads clear.

"It's that team approach which gets us through every winter, no matter what mother nature throws at us."

■ For more information and advice see the 'Roads in Winter' pages on the council website: http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200232/roads_lighting_and_pavements/330/roads_in_winter

ROADS IN WINTER: PREPARE

BY LYNNE CARSTAIRS

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council is highlighting the importance of being prepared as the winter months take hold.

During a recent awareness campaign the Roads service set out to remind communities that winter, and its potential effects on getting about, are just around the corner.

Whilst the local authority has its winter fleet and 24/7 teams on full standby, Councillor Chris Thompson, Chair of the Enterprise Services Committee is urging the wider community to get ready.

He said: "Our winter plan includes gritting 52% of the road network when ice or snow is forecast as well as town centre footpaths. These gritting routes include roads giving access to hospitals, ambulance depots, fire stations, police stations and schools, A and B class roads and distributor roads in urban areas. In our rural areas we will also grit roads which provide the only way in or out of a community. As a rule, however, gritting routes do not include residential roads and paths."

"And, as winter increasingly brings high winds and heavy rainfall we are also on high alert around

the clock for problems caused by flooding or fallen trees."

But there is so much more that we can all do to keep ourselves safe whatever winter throws at us.

There are more than 1,000 grit bins around South Lanarkshire to help neighbourhoods grit road pavements around their homes.

Councillor Thompson said: "Grit bins are there to help us, but they are not a free supply for private property. The priority for our workforce will be main routes and essential access roads but our resources are there to help members of the community tackle snow



Priority for our workforce will be main routes and essential access roads but grit bins are there to help members of the community tackle snow and ice on residential roads and paths



Some of the weather challenges the council faces

UN BE ED

used by on residential roads and paths.”
 The Roads team is on stand-by 24/7 throughout the winter (usually until the end of March) and plans its precautionary gritting schedule based on up to date forecast information from the MET office, supplied three times daily.

added: you but or use on rity for n routes out these members v and ice

■ During the winter alert period, the council will issue up to date information, including severe weather alerts and advice regularly through its website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk as well as through twitter @southlancouncil and @slcroads



TOP TIPS

In the car

- Ensure your car is topped up with anti-freeze and screenwash
- Consider keeping an emergency kit in the car with a blanket, water, snacks, a torch and a shovel, don't forget sunglasses can be vital to combat glare from the low winter sun

Cyclists

- Make sure bikes are in good working order and lights/reflectors are clean
- Always wear fluorescent and reflective materials and a helmet



At home

- Have a snow shovel to clear your path or drive and if possible the footpath outside your home
- Have a stock of salt and torches with charged batteries in easy to reach places.
- Think of older or less able neighbours – perhaps you could help them prepare



AMAZING: Ross Knight, Cameron Richford, Jessica Massey and Jessica Munn try out the VR tech

The virtual becomes reality in South Lanarkshire schools

THOUSANDS of school pupils in South Lanarkshire have been taken on expeditions to rainforests, coral reefs and even back in time after being chosen to help technology giant Google develop a new teaching tool.

South Lanarkshire is among the select areas across the UK where a Google Expeditions Pilot Programme has been bringing virtual reality (VR) tech into schools.

Equipped with a tablet computer, teachers are able to guide pupils with VR goggles on virtual field trips designed to support the curriculum.

Pupils at St John's Primary School in Hamilton explored Iceland, visited ancient Rome and stood on a World War One battlefield.

Eleven-year-old Jessica Massey said: "It is difficult to describe, it made you forget what your real surroundings were and feel that you were really there."

Fellow pupil Ross Knight said: "It was amazing I was pointing things out,

It is difficult to describe, it made you forget what your real surroundings were and feel that you were really there

forgetting they were not really there. It will be great in the classroom for learning about the environment, history and geography."

Classmate Jessica Munn said: "We have been studying World War One and being able to get a sense of what it must have been like to be in the middle of a battle makes it much more real."

A Google Expeditions spokesperson said, "Google Expeditions seeks to help teachers bring lessons to life and take students to places they would never otherwise be able to go.

"We've been thrilled to see teachers use Expeditions to provide students with a deeper understanding of the world beyond the classroom, infusing learning with excitement and fun."

■ Schools can apply to have pupils age 7+ experience this free programme at: <http://ow.ly/2JKz3062Bf1>



LIFE-CHANGING:
Adoption can transform a child's life (Picture posed by model)



It has not been a completely easy journey but has been a rewarding one, seeing a vulnerable young child develop into a responsible, beautiful and caring young girl

CHILDREN JUST NEED LOVE, SUPPORT AND SECURITY

BY SARAH BURROWS

LOCAL couple Linda and Max are keen to encourage others to adopt. Linda says: "For various reasons we decided that the best way for us to start a family was to adopt. We knew that we could offer a good home to a child who had maybe not had the best start in life."

They contacted the council and were approved to adopt two children aged from 0-4.

In September 2009 the couple got the call they were waiting for. They had been matched with a little girl called Chelsea. Linda was ecstatic. She said: "We had waited for this moment for so long that it actually didn't feel real. We couldn't quite believe it."

"Chelsea's foster carers had been doing some work with her to prepare her

for meeting us, including showing her photographs we had sent of us and our home and her room, which was a great way to introduce her to us."

Over the next week the couple and Chelsea spent more and more time with each other before Chelsea moved in to the family home.

Linda said: "It was a difficult transition from being a couple to being responsible for someone else. When you have a birth child I assume you develop with them but to have a child with their own wee personality and very strong likes and dislikes move in with you, it was a very steep learning curve for us. However, though challenging, we have loved every minute."

The adoption was finally approved in April 2010, and soon after Linda and Max could get their daughter a passport and travel on their first family holiday abroad.

Linda said: "It has not been a completely easy journey but has been a rewarding one, seeing a vulnerable young child develop into a responsible, beautiful and caring young girl."

"We have found ourselves trying to over-compensate for what Chelsea been through and try to make sure that she has everything she could want, but that's not always the best, the main thing is providing love, support and stability."

"We would urge anyone who is considering adoption to take the first step and make an enquiry – it is a chance to change your life and the life of a child forever and it is the most rewarding thing we've ever done."

■ **To get an adoption information pack or for further details please log on to the council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or call 0303 123 1008.**

Accreditation confirms council commitment to Living Wage

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council is now an accredited Living Wage employer.

Although the council has been paying at least the Living Wage for the past five years, there is a formal process any organisation has to pass before it can become accredited, which includes a review of contracted staff and committing to future rates of the Living Wage.

The Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative, who are housed at The Poverty Alliance, are responsible for the accreditation in Scotland. SLWAI are an independent movement of businesses, organisations and people who believe "a fair day's work deserves a fair day's pay".

South Lanarkshire Council Leader, Councillor Eddie McAvooy, said: "Paying the Living Wage has a positive impact on all low paid employees who are struggling to make ends meet in the current financial climate."

"Employees are the lifeblood of any organisation and it is only right that they are paid a fair wage."

"I am firmly of the opinion that every business or company who can afford to do so should be paying it. I am delighted

that we have attained accreditation as it confirms our commitment to the Living Wage."

Director of The Poverty Alliance, Peter Kelly said: "Congratulations to South Lanarkshire Council on become an accredited Living Wage Employer."

"With over a quarter of a million adults living in in-work poverty in Scotland, it is clear that the traditional route out of poverty, work, is not working. Paying a real Living Wage is a crucial step to addressing these unacceptable levels of in-work poverty."

"I hope that other employers in South Lanarkshire will follow the lead of the council and join the growing Living Wage movement in Scotland and pay a real Living Wage that reflects the cost of living."

The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually. The Living Wage is calculated according to the basic cost of living using the 'Minimum Income Standard' for the UK. Decisions about what to include in this standard are set by the public; it is a social consensus about what people need to make ends meet.

The Living Wage is currently £8.45 per hour in Scotland and for the whole of the UK, outside of London.

■ **For more information on the Living Wage and how to become accredited, go to: www.scottishlivingwage.org**



Women can now recycle their bras for breast cancer research

WOMEN in South Lanarkshire can now recycle their unloved or unwanted bras to raise vital funds to help stop deaths from breast cancer.

New eye-catching pink bra banks are installed at Rutherglen Waste and Recycling Centre and Blantyre Waste and Recycling Centre.

There is a total of 32 Breast Cancer Now bra banks situated at recycling centres across Scotland. For every tonne of bras donated £200

will go towards Breast Cancer Now's world-class research.

Through the partnership with local councils and recycling specialists Nathan's Wastesavers, bras will either be upcycled into new materials – including carpets, purses and textiles – or start a new life on the other side of the world in developing countries.

Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services, Alistair McKinnon, said: "We fully support this exciting

new partnership which will allow women across South Lanarkshire to recycle their bras in a way that will not only benefit the environment but provide funding for cutting-edge breast cancer research.

"We would like to encourage local women to take advantage of the new Breast Cancer Now bra banks and give their unwanted underwear a new life while helping to stop deaths from breast cancer."

Mary Allison, Director for Scotland at Breast Cancer Now, said: "We're very excited to launch our brightly coloured bra recycling banks across Scotland. It means that women can bin their bras for breast cancer research that helps save lives."

"The banks will not only support our life-saving breast cancer research, but also help the environment by reducing the amount of material being sent to landfill."



He was motivational, a natural leader who was respected by everyone Lion-hearted Bobby remembered with nothing but great respect

BY ANDY LIVINGSTONE

UNVEILING a plaque took only a little effort, but it was a huge gesture to a giant of a man, both physically and in the eyes of those who had known him.

Bobby Murdoch was celebrated as a Lisbon Lion but was remembered as a man commanding boundless respect and affection.

A plaque and commemorative display commissioned by South Lanarkshire Council has been unveiled in Rutherglen Town Hall, where it will be mounted as a permanent reminder in Bobby's home town.

Bertie Auld, his team mate in the history-making Celtic side of 1967, said that Bobby's influence went far beyond his considerable skill.

"He had everything in his locker," he remembered. "He could handle the physical side – he played that final, you know, with his ankle swollen up to twice its size – and his passing was unrivalled. He was brave enough to put his foot on the ball and control the game, no matter who we were playing.

"But it was his tremendous personality that sticks with you. He was motivational, a natural leader who was respected by everyone. That's what made him special as much as anything he did with the ball."

The plaque was unveiled in the presence of Bobby's family – including his mother Barbara, wife Kathleen, and children Bobby, Kathleen and Barrie – by Lord McAvoy, who remembered him as a legendary figure who was also a local man.

He said: "Like many of us were in this area at the time, he was born in a family home in Burnhill before he moved to The Spittal, where he went to St Columkille's Primary, growing up with a whole collection of family and friends. Spittal and Rutherglen helped make Bobby the man he was, and the memories of him as a player but also as the boy who grew up beside us are what Ruglonians hold



PROUD: Bobby's wife Kathleen and mum Barbara (seated) with his children Bobby (left), Kathleen and Barrie

so dear and why they hold him in such respect."

It was while at that primary school, in a forerunner to the famous night in Seville, that he captained the school side to victory in the Glasgow Cup Final.

Journalist Archie Macpherson remembered: "Perhaps his greatest game of all – and there were many to choose from – was the night Jimmy Johnstone stole all the headlines against Steaua Bucharest. But Jimmy was the first to

admit that he did so from an assembly line of passes from Bobby."

The plaque had been organised by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's general manager Gerry Campbell and assistant museums officer Barrie Duncan after they had been contacted by local Patricia Morrow.

Patricia: "Having remembered Bobby from school and knowing the sort of man he was, and then watching all he had achieved, I thought it was a real shame

that there was nothing in his town to remember someone who was such a legend. To see it now, though, and the huge number of people who have turned out today to witness it being unveiled, is a wonderful thing and a sign of the high regard people have for him."

The last word was, perhaps predictably, with the irrepressible Bertie Auld: "What you have to remember is that, in every respect, he was a great man," he said, "and that is what matters most of all."



COMPOSER PLAYS ON MAUSOLEUM SOUND

A NEW musical work has turned the bricks and mortar of Hamilton Mausoleum into part of the orchestra with the buildings unique acoustics being central to the composition.

Composer Francis Macdonald, (left) won Creative Scotland and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's support to bring to life a suite of compositions written to take advantage of the

building's echo.

Musicians from the Scottish Festival Orchestra joined Francis and sound engineer Iain Hutchison in the Mausoleum during November to record the work.

Originally from Uddingston, Francis was inspired by memories of visiting the mausoleum as a child and being amazed by the structure's 15

second echo which historically was recorded as the world's longest lasting.

Francis, who is the drummer in Indie band 'Teenage Fanclub', has a growing reputation as a composer for film, tv and of classical works such as his critically acclaimed album 'Music For string Quartet Piano & Celeste'.

He said: "Hamilton Mausoleum

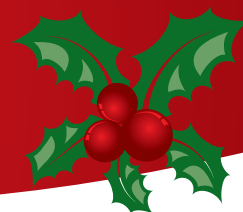
has such a unique sound, I vividly recall from childhood the noise like thunder echoing around when the guide slammed the huge doors shut".

Francis expects to release the finished album in Spring 2017.

Hamilton Mausoleum is closed to the public during the winter but tours can be booked via Low Parks Museum at other times of the year.



Festive Holiday Information



Chatelherault and Calderglen Country Parks

Both parks will be closed 25, 26, 31 December and 1, 2 January and will close at 3.30pm, earlier than usual on 24, 27-30 December.

Leisure Centres

All Leisure Centres will be closed 25-26 December and 1-2 January, with some additional closures and others open for reduced hours on 24 and 31 December. Please check with individual centres for opening times.

East Kilbride Ice Rink

East Kilbride Ice Rink will be closed on 25 December and 1 January with reduced opening hours on 24, 26, 31 December and 2 January.

Libraries

All libraries will be closed on 24-27 and 31 December and 1-3 January, with reduced opening hours on 24 and 31 December. Please check with individual libraries for opening times.

Sports Pitches

Ballerup Recreation Area, Tileworks, Bent and Lanark Synthetic Pitches will be closed 23 December – 3 January. Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds will be closed 24-26 December and 30 December – 2 January.

Golf Courses

Golf courses will be closed 25-27 December and 1-3 January.

Low Parks Museum

Low Parks Museum will be closed on 25-27 December and 31 December – 2 January.

Community Halls / Lifestyles Centres

Carluke, Stonehouse and Fairhill Lifestyle Centres and Community Halls will be closed 24-27 December and 31 December – 3 January. Please check with halls booking offices for opening times.

Cultural Venues

Hamilton Townhouse and Rutherglen Town Hall will be closed 24-27 December and 31 December – 3 January. Lanark Memorial Hall will be closed 24 December – 3 January. East Kilbride Village Theatre will be closed 25-27 December and 31 December – 3 January. East Kilbride Arts Centre will be closed 24-27 December and 31 December – 3 January.

Please check our website

www.sleisureandculture.co.uk

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



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
Leisure & Culture
www.sleisureandculture.co.uk

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited is
a recognised Scottish Charity, No. SCO32549

Closure of offices

All council offices will be closed on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 December 2016 and Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 January 2017.

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

Refuse and Recycling Collections

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

Week Commencing 26 December

Normal collection day	New collection day
Monday 26 December	Tuesday 27 December
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December

Week Commencing 2 January

Normal collection day	New collection day
Monday 2 January	Wednesday 4 January
Tuesday 3 January	Thursday 5 January
Wednesday 4 January	Friday 6 January
Thursday 5 January	Saturday 7 January
Friday 6 January	Sunday 8 January

Please ensure that your bin is out for collection before 7.00am and that all waste is contained within your wheeled bin. We cannot guarantee what time your bin will be collected but it will be collected on the collection day referred to above. The only exception to this would be during periods of adverse weather, when we must wait until road conditions improve, or if there are temporary restrictions on access to your property.

Due to the Festive Period and the Council's focus on completing wheeled bin collections, the Council's 'special uplift' and 'garden waste uplift' services will not be provided between Monday 26 December 2016 and Friday 6 January 2017, inclusive. Requests can still be made during this period; however, please note that requests received after 16 December 2016 may not be completed until after week commencing the 9 January 2017.

Remember, you can take any additional refuse or recyclable material, including real Christmas trees, to one of your local Household Waste and Recycling Centres that are located at:

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

For all enquiries relating to litter, dog fouling, illegal dumping, graffiti, fly posting, asbestos removal, removal of glass or syringes, waste collection and disposal, recycling, grounds maintenance or waste education please call the Customer Services Centre on 0303 123 1020 (local rate).

Urgent registration arrangements

All offices closed in line with the closure of offices section detailed above. In addition, the Hamilton and Rutherglen offices will be closed all day on Saturday 24 December 2016 and Saturday 31 December 2016. Appointments only for Lanark and East Kilbride offices will be available on Wednesday 28 December 2016, Friday 30 December 2016, Wednesday 4 January 2017 and Friday 6 January 2017.

Arrangements for the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the delivery of other Council Services during the festive period will be displayed at the relevant offices.

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

Prepare for winter driving

Driving at any time of year requires constant care and attention but winter conditions call for specific winter driving skills:-

- Prepare your vehicle
- Leave plenty of time for your journey – check weather forecasts and travel bulletins
- Make sure all your windows are de-iced
- Always clear snow from the roof and bonnet of your vehicle before setting off
- Drive at a speed appropriate to the conditions
- Look out for black ice, particularly isolated patches
- Manoeuvre gently and avoid harsh steering, braking and acceleration
- Watch out for gritters and stay well clear of them – don't overtake
- In fog, use dipped headlights and your fog lights
- Carry an emergency kit including an ice scraper, shovel, torch, blankets, food and drink

