



CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

FESTIVE FUN: Santa helped bring in the Christmas cheer as the lights were switched on in Lanark recently. Events have taken place at major towns across South Lanarkshire.

INVESTMENT CONTINUES WITH NEW £400M PLANS

AMBITIOUS plans have been approved which could see almost £400 million invested in South Lanarkshire in the next decade.

The council's new medium-term capital strategy identifies a requirement for investment in leisure centres, community halls, schools and nurseries, roads, park and ride facilities, play parks, country parks and cemeteries.

This planned next decade of investment follows rebuilding programmes that have transformed the area's primary and secondary schools into some of the best in Europe. It is also in addition to existing plans to plough £17.6m into South Lanarkshire's elderly and adult care facilities.

The new strategy, which runs to 2028, was hailed by John Ross, Leader of

South Lanarkshire Council. Cllr Ross said: "All councils have had to find annual budget savings in recent years, and South Lanarkshire is no exception. But I am delighted that, despite these financial pressures, we also have been able to look ahead and plan for a £400m investment in the next decade.

"That sort of forward planning is vital if we are going to ensure that South Lanarkshire remains a great place not only to live and work, but also to visit and in which to do business. Our plans show how we are planning for a bright future for South Lanarkshire's current and next generations."

The council already has a commitment to capital investment and 2019/20 will be the third year of a three-year £256 million investment programme which

is improving key areas like elderly care facilities, the road network and local schools.

Now the Future Capital Investment Strategy, which was approved by the council's Executive Committee on 21 November, outlines plans for a further £399.268m capital requirement to 2027/28. Approval for specific projects will happen as the strategy progresses.

It includes continued spending to expand schools where this is needed, and to ensure they have the best facilities, including IT. Significant investment also will be made to ensure the council can meet its commitments to the Scottish Government plan to offer free 1140 nursery hours per annum per child.

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**Out-of-hours Social Work
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If you are hard of hearing you can
use minicom on 0303 123 1017If 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](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUDGET

**LOCAL residents are being encouraged
to give their views on budget proposals
for South Lanarkshire.**

The call came after the council's Executive Committee was presented with a series of financial reports, including a 2019/20 budget strategy paper which outlined plans to make efficiencies totalling £13.181 million.

The budget strategy paper comes after the council has already made savings totalling £166m in the last 10 years, with pressures continuing on local authorities' budgets due to increases in costs and demand for services at a time when funding has remained static or declined.

Council Leader John Ross said the challenge of finding further savings became greater each year, but he added that the latest proposals were designed to try to protect key frontline services as far as possible.

Councillor Ross said: "Elected Members will now consider these saving proposals as we look to meet our requirement to balance the council's budget. The Executive Committee agreed with my suggestion

that a decision on the proposals should be deferred to allow more time for those considerations, and that means we also have more time to listen to our local residents.

"I am sure that lots of people will have a view, and we really want to hear from them. However, everyone needs to understand that the budget has to balance so any savings that come out have to be replaced with something else.

"We won't know the full picture until we have our grant from the government confirmed in December, but it is worth pointing out that even with the savings required, I would expect that the council will have a budget of around £700m next year, and we will spend that delivering the services that local people depend on."



**A dedicated email address:
savings@southlanarkshire.gov.uk**

**for the submission of
comments and suggestions
on the budget is available.**

**Representations will also be
welcomed by post, to:**

**Savings Consultation,
South Lanarkshire Council,
Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AA.**

Residents can get more information on the budget proposals by visiting the council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/savings.

Council wins award for continued commitment to Living Wage

**SOUTH Lanarkshire Council has won
an award which shows continued
commitment to the Living Wage.**

The council has been successful in winning the Living Wage Scotland 2018 Anchor Institution Award, which is open to all Accredited Living Wage employers who are recognised as major employers within their local area.

Since 2011, South Lanarkshire Council has been paying the real Living Wage, and achieved accreditation as a Living Wage employer in 2016. As the largest employer in the local authority area, the council has been the key local champion for the Living Wage movement.

The award was announced during Living Wage Week 2018, at the Living Wage Expo and awards ceremony in Edinburgh.

Depute Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, and chair of the Community Planning Partnership, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, said: "We are absolutely delighted that our commitment to the Living Wage has been recognised and we have won this award.

"As the lead for Community Planning, we recognise our influence extends beyond our own organisation and as such have been championing the Living Wage across all sectors of the local economy and beyond.



DELIGHTED: Councillor John Anderson and Kay McIntosh of SLC pick up the award from host Sarah Jackson

"Independent studies have found that the majority of employers believe that paying the Living Wage enhances the quality of the work of their staff, while also reducing absenteeism.

"Employees also reported increases in work quality as a result of receiving the Living Wage, while half of them were more willing to implement changes in their working practices.

"Moving forward, we will work with the Living Wage Campaign group members to further explore how we use procurement and grant making processes as a means to supporting the Living Wage movement."

INVESTMENT CONTINUES WITH NEW £400M PLANS

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Some £30m is being allocated towards leisure centres, with Larkhall Leisure Centre, John Wright Sports Centre, East Kilbride, and Blantyre Leisure Centre earmarked as priorities for refurbishment.

A review of community assets, including community halls, will also identify those that need investment, with a commitment to addressing social isolation, deprivation and to providing opportunities for further community engagement.

The aim is to continue improvement in local roads too, with an anticipated annual investment of £11m, plus another £2.4m a year for other roads infrastructure including footways and footpaths.

Options to develop park and ride facilities are being examined across 19 train stations, with Hairmyres, Hamilton West and Hamilton Central, Rutherglen and Cambuslang among those with high priority status in a plan expected to cost up to £20m to deliver.

A further £243m investment is planned in council housing, with about half on new housing stock and the rest on improvements and new heating systems. Other spending has been earmarked for cemeteries and grass and synthetic pitches, with a total £1.4m specifically to replace eight play parks.

Living Wage Scotland Manager Julie McGahan said: "The Living Wage Scotland Anchor Institution award recognises employers who are important and influential Living Wage employers in a local area.

"South Lanarkshire Council has demonstrated a genuine, continued commitment to increasing the profile and take up of the real Living Wage across South Lanarkshire, and their efforts have encouraged both small and large employers in the region to become accredited as Living Wage employers, benefitting thousands of workers.

"Living Wage Scotland are delighted to recognise South Lanarkshire Council's fantastic contribution to the Living Wage employer movement, by awarding the Living Wage Scotland Anchor Institution Award 2018."

The most recently accredited Living Wage employers in South Lanarkshire are:

- Love Learning Scotland (East Kilbride)
- Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health (Hamilton)
- Procladd (Scotland) Limited (Hamilton)
- Simple Simon's Perfect Pies (Biggar)

For more details on the Living Wage visit <https://scottishlivingwage.org/>

Hundreds of businesses take up invite to ‘meet the buyer’

MORE than 500 local businesses were given direct access to South Lanarkshire Council buyers at a unique event recently.

‘Meet the Real Buyer’ was an opportunity for the business community to speak to council teams who commission contracts and invite tenders for the local authority – all in one place.

Buyers from all council services were represented at the event at council HQ in Hamilton’s Almada Street, alongside some of the large construction companies (tier 1 contractors) who regularly work in partnership with South Lanarkshire.

Councillor John Anderson, Chair of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, said: “The council is committed to improving opportunities for local SMEs to

access contracts, and this event was an ideal opportunity to meet directly with those responsible for developing specific requirements.”

Depute Provost, Councillor Collette Stevenson, who delivered the opening address at the event, added: “Meet the real buyer offered companies a genuine chance to identify leads and get ‘bid ready’. For businesses serious about working with the council and helping us to deliver for the people of South Lanarkshire, I am sure the event was hugely worthwhile.”

A number of workshops were staged throughout the day aimed at making sure businesses are in the best position to tender for work with the local authority.

FUNDS EARMARKED TO FIX CLYDESDALE BRIDGES

TWO bridges are to be replaced at an estimated cost of £6million so they can once again provide lifelines to Clydesdale communities.

Both Clyde Bridge at Pettinain and Ponfeigh Bridge over Douglas Water have been closed due to concerns over their safety. The closures have meant some delays and diversions for local residents in both areas.

However, the two bridges have been targeted for replacement as one of the first acts of a new medium-term capital investment strategy for South Lanarkshire Council.

The strategy, which outlines nearly £400m of investment in the next decade, was agreed by the council’s Executive Committee.

John Anderson, the chair of Community and Enterprise Resources, said replacing the bridges was a priority for the council and had therefore been programmed to begin in the first year of the new strategy, 2019/20.

Councillor Anderson said: “Both bridges have now had to be closed because our regular inspections had raised concerns over their safety, and obviously that has to be our total priority. However, we knew this would have a significant impact on local people, and those passing through for business or leisure.

“That is why the council has prioritised plans to reopen access at both locations, and I am delighted that we have now been able to confirm our intention to replace both bridges. This will make a significant difference for our important rural communities, and work will progress as quickly as possible.”

South Lanarkshire Council already has a commitment to capital investment in the future of the whole local area, and 2019/20 will be the third year of a three-year £256 million investment programme which is improving key areas like elderly care facilities, the road network and local schools.

LIBRARIES HELP GIVE POWER TO HEARING AIDS

A NEW project has been launched to ensure the power remains in the hands – or, at least, in the devices – of hearing-aid users.

Through a partnership between South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC), anyone in the local authority area who has an NHS hearing aid can now pick up replacement batteries from their local library.

Hearing-aid user Tom Berney said: “This is a wonderful idea. I have always had to go to the hospital and wait in a long queue, because audiology is such an in-demand service, but this makes it so much easier and more convenient.”

The project began when the council’s Seniors Together team noticed the difficulties that many people encounter when needing to replace the batteries for their hearing aids.

Manager Christine Calder said: “Through talking to older people, we found that it is not always easy to be able to pick up replacement hearing-aid batteries when they are needed. For example, it may be difficult to travel to a clinic, or people who are employed may find it hard to take time off work just when the clinic is running.

“We raised the issue with the NHS and the libraries service, and this great solution is the result.”

Councillor Jim McGuigan, South Lanarkshire’s Spokesperson for Older People, said: “A good hearing aid is so essential for many people – it can be the



NOW LOOK ‘EAR’: Hearing-aid user Tom Berney (front right) and Councillor Jim McGuigan (front centre) with professionals from the council, NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

difference between feeling cut off from the world and enjoying all that being able to hear can bring to our lives.

“Considering that something as simple as making batteries more accessible can play such a big part in bringing the benefits of hearing to people, then it is wonderful to see the launch of this project. It will make life easier and more fulfilling to many, and it is a privilege to be a part of that.”

Robbie Rooney, Head of Audiology with NHS Lanarkshire, was also delighted with the benefits of the project.

He said: “This is a perfect example of a win-win situation. People with NHS hearing aids can pick up new batteries when and where it is most convenient to them, and it also relieves pressure on our very busy audiology clinics, freeing up time for other patients.

“This shows the value in a partnership, where local people can benefit from using our service through the facilities of SLLC as a result of feedback to Seniors Together!”

Replacement batteries are now available in all libraries across South Lanarkshire.

School pupils dance to it in Lanark

PUPILS from 20 primary schools across Clydesdale were dancing the night away recently at Lanark Memorial Hall.

The annual event was staged by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture’s (SLLC) Active Schools Co-ordinators and showcased the talents of more than 340 pupils across a range of dance with fantastic themes and costumes on show.

Coached by their teachers and dance instructors, the pupils have been working hard throughout the year and took to the stage to demonstrate their dancing skills with enthusiasm and a wide variety of routines were on show.

Active Schools Coordinator, Clare Murphy, said: “The night was a fantastic success, with two shows taking place and both of them a complete sell out.

“Some of the dance moves the pupils performed



Move to the beat: Some of the pupils perform their routine

were simply breathtaking and it was inspiring to see the technique and dedication that was on display.

“A huge well done to everyone who was involved, and I am sure many of them will be returning next year with even more impressive routines.”

Local secondary schools were also on hand to help out, with senior pupils taking on presenting duties for the night.

There were also very special guest performances from the senior dance troupes from Lanark Grammar and Lesmahagow High.

The primary schools that took part were Wiston, Libberton, Carnwath, Abington, Tinto, Biggar, Leadhills, Lamington, Crawforddyke St Marys Lanark, Carstairs, Braehead, Carmichael, Rigside, Underbank, Robert Owen, New Lanark, Lanark, Blackwood and Law.



School first in UK to be recognised for Nurturing

A SECONDARY school in Rutherglen has become the first in the UK to receive an award for their work in supporting young people through Nurturing.

Trinity High School have been awarded the “National Nurturing Schools Programme – Nurturing School Award”.

The award reflects the school's commitment to promoting healthy outcomes for children and young people, primarily by focusing on emotional needs and development.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Education Resources Committee, Councillor Katy Loudon, said: “This is a wonderful achievement for Trinity High School and a huge congratulations to all the staff, pupils, parents and carers and the school community who have made this possible.

“Nurturing has significant influence on social emotional skills, wellbeing and behaviour and this is then often reflected in academic achievement.

“Across the school there were Nurturing practices designed to promote wellbeing and emotional resilience.

“It is recognised that behaviour is a form of communication and that key attention was made by the school to the number of transitions in young people's lives.”

The school had to submit evidence of its work in the area of Nurture, followed by a rigorous check including visits, interviews with young people, check on training and classroom observations.

A Nurture Base has been established at the school and is now regarded as a hub for training, advice and support.

Head Teacher of Trinity High School, Peter Bollen, said: “On behalf of the school and the authority we are delighted to have gained this award which confirms our hard work in helping all the pupils who come into the school.



PROUD: pupil Sophie Watson, Kirsten Mann (Scottish Training Officer for Nurture), head teacher Peter Bollen, Councillor Katy Loudon and pupil Alen Saju.

“Nurture helps us to support young people and offers our pupils the possibility of a better pathway and to face life with a positive attitude.”

Head of Quality and Standards at Nurture UK, Helen Stollery, said: “The staff at Trinity High recognise that nurture is fundamental to their students future and wellbeing, both academically and emotionally.

“Their focus is to develop well-rounded and capable human beings and they have done this by modeling positive relationships, being inspiring educators, and believing in the young people they genuinely care for.

“They deserve to be the first secondary school in UK to achieve the NNSA and it was a privilege to present the award to them.”

300 NEW HOMES FOR CAMBUSLANG BY 2021

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council has announced 300 new homes will be built in Cambuslang as part of a £42m housing-led regeneration project.

The development in East Whitlawburn will transform the area and will see 200 new social rented homes and 100 private homes for sale with work expected to get underway in late summer 2019.

Chair of the council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee, Councillor Josh Wilson, said: “This is tremendous news for the Cambuslang area and reinforces the council's commitment to building new affordable homes which are suitable for modern, family living.

“These new homes are a perfect example of our ambitious plans to provide new high quality accommodation and improve the lives of our tenants and the wider community.”

CCG (Scotland) Ltd, the Cambuslang-based construction and manufacturing group, has been appointed preferred bidder by hub South West, the public-private partnership of local authorities in Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, to build the new homes as part of Cambuslang's East Whitlawburn Regeneration Project.

As part of the transformation of Whitlawburn, CCG will also undertake a series of community benefit initiatives for the duration of the contract programme which will include the provision of jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities for the local community.

NEW ONLINE SERVICES LAUNCHED FOR RESIDENTS



TWO new secure online services have been launched by South Lanarkshire Council.

You can now check your council tax balance and, if you are a council tenant, check your rent account, no matter where you are, using a computer, tablet or smartphone.

You can access these services using the Scottish Government's myaccount. This is a free and secure service which checks who you are and allows you to use one account to access a number of public services, including other councils and some NHS services.

All you need to register is an e-mail account, and once registered, you will be e-mailed your sign-in details.

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Finance and Corporate Resources Committee, Councillor Gladys Miller, said: “Myaccount is an extremely handy and secure way to keep on track with your council tax bill, and if you are a council tenant, you can access your rent account.

“We will add more council services over time and will keep you informed of any changes.”

You can access myaccount from the top right corner on the home page of the council's website, www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

SHELTERED HOUSING TENANTS ARE YOUNG AT HEART AT FESTIVAL

It was all good humour, positivity and a youthful outlook as Sheltered Housing tenants from across South Lanarkshire came together for their biannual gathering recently.

The third Sheltered Housing Festival to be held by South Lanarkshire Council took place at the Radstone Hotel, by Larkhall, with around 180 tenants proving that they were, as the event's theme said, Still Young at Heart.

John Finlay, a resident of Alberta Park Sheltered Housing complex, in East Kilbride, reprised his role from the two previous events as Master of Ceremonies and introduced a series of events throughout the day, including keynote speaker Jill Trevena, a consultant occupational therapist and the founder of Practical Mindset, a speed networking session with a host of helpful agencies and armchair aerobics led by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's Chris Murray.

Surprise guests were a trio of top Scottish musicians, Siobhan Miler, Megan Henderson and James Grant, setting the tone for further musical entertainment with the Musical Memories choir, a demonstration from the Coalburn Jivers, musical bingo and a sing-along with Arts Development Officer Claire Armour.

The council's Head of Housing Services, Annette Finnan was delighted with the atmosphere on the day. She said: “Every



PICTURE PERFECT: Fiona Carswell and Caroline McKenna, from Eastcroft Gardens, show they are Still Young at Heart.

one of the tenants I spoke to said that they really enjoyed this festival. In fact, the atmosphere throughout was so positive that it was inspiring for all of us, whatever our role was on the day.

“This was a truly tenant-led event, with a committee of tenants having planned and organised the whole enterprise to meet exactly what is of relevance and assistance to those living in our sheltered housing accommodation as well as being a thoroughly enjoyable day.

“This approach lies at the heart of all we do in sheltered housing, and the value of undertaking it in this way was proved by the huge success that the Festival proved to be.”

Keynote speaker Jill Trevena was thrilled to have the chance to be a part of the event.

She said: “The nature of my work means that I am used to working with people of all ages and from a wide variety of backgrounds, but I was amazed by the spirit and response from the tenants I spoke to at the Festival.

“I find my job to be a very fulfilling one but on days like this, with the enthusiasm I encountered, it can be even more rewarding than ever!”



AWARD: South Lanarkshire Council Modern Apprentices Alex Ramsay from Ashgill and Ronan Hannigan from Douglas, both training in Business Administration, Caitlin Milligan from Netherburn training in Early Years Child Care and Alex Higgins from Lanark, training as an electrician.

Apprenticeship award recognises council's investment in young people

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council has been recognised for its commitment to supporting young people into work with a major award win.

The council has received a Skills Development Scotland's (SDS) Youth Employer award for its efforts in creating opportunities for young people.

South Lanarkshire has long been a supporter of apprenticeships, with individuals participating in Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships.

Raymond Brownlie, Vocational Development Adviser, said: "The council is pleased to be recognised for its commitment to the Modern Apprenticeship programme."

The council currently has over 100 Modern Apprentices in post, working towards nationally-recognised work-based qualifications in a range of different occupations, including business and administration, social services and healthcare, highway maintenance, carpentry and joinery, plumbing and heating and bricklaying, painting and decorating.

Modern Apprenticeships allow individuals to work, learn and earn, with

individuals working towards industry-recognised qualifications while in full-time employment.

The council also has 14 Graduate Apprentices, who are working towards a degree whilst in full-time employment. The employees study with Glasgow Caledonian University or the University of the West of Scotland on a day release basis. A number of different frameworks are currently underway including software development, IT management for business, cyber security and civil engineering.

As well as this, the council provides placements for the Foundation Apprenticeship programme. Foundation Apprenticeships are open to young people in the senior phase of secondary school, and combine college-style learning with a significant work placement. The apprenticeship, which usually takes two years to complete, results in a qualification at the same level of learning as a Higher.

Catherine Thomas, Relationship Development Executive at SDS, who nominated the council for the award, said: "Having worked with South Lanarkshire Council for some time, it is great to see the local authority's work in supporting young people being recognised."

"Public sector employers like this have a lot to offer young people, particularly through apprenticeships. As well as gaining qualifications, these young people have a supportive work environment and prospects for growth and progression."

Raymond Brownlie at South Lanarkshire Council added: "In particular over the last two years we have increased our opportunities. We believe that Modern Apprenticeships give young people a good start to their career journeys and the council uses the programme as a way of supporting workforce planning, ongoing development and future career development and progression."

Frank Mitchell, Chair of Skills Development Scotland, said: "I would like to offer my congratulations to South Lanarkshire Council on being named Youth Employer of the Month."

"As an employer, South Lanarkshire recognise that young people can make a really valuable contribution to the workplace. Their apprenticeship programmes not only give people a starting point in the world of work, but give them the chance to learn, develop and thrive."

Kerry's looking forward to a career in care

Being accepted on a Modern Apprenticeship offered Kerry Turner the chance to change direction in her working life and set out on new career path.

Kerry, who is working and training at David Walker Gardens residential care home, said: "I had a good job working in a bank but my heart was not really in it, I have always had more of an interest in working in a person centred caring role and when I saw the Modern Apprenticeship it seemed like the perfect opportunity."

At 23 years old when she started her apprenticeship Kerry was older than most of the young people who joined the council with her. She said; "If it had not been for the Modern Apprenticeship I would probably have stayed where I was but because this role offered not just a job I was



CARING: Kerry with resident Alice Hannah

interested in but also the chance to get on a structured training programme and a definitive career path I felt confident to take that step."

"I have not looked back and absolutely love the work here, it really suits my personality and it is very rewarding helping and supporting the residents and their family and friends who visit."

A range of modern apprenticeships are often available with South Lanarkshire Council - visit www.myjobscotland.gov.uk for more information.



Festive Holiday Information

Chatelherault and Calderglen Country Parks

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

Leisure Centres

All Leisure Centres will be closed 25-26 December and 1-2 January, with some open for reduced hours during the festive period. 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 2-3 January.

Libraries

All libraries will be closed on 24-26 December and 31 December – 2 January, with some open for reduced hours during the festive period. Please check with individual libraries for opening times.

Sports Pitches

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

Golf Courses

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

Low Parks Museum

Low Parks Museum will be closed on 24-26 December and 31 December – 2 January, with reduced opening hours from 27-30 December.

Community Halls / Lifestyles Centres

Community Halls will be closed on 25-26 December and 1-2 January, with some open for reduced hours during the festive period. Please check with halls booking offices for opening times. Carluke Lifestyles will be closed from 24-29 December and 31 December – 2 January and Stonehouse Lifestyles will be closed from 23 December – 2 January however there are some exceptions for both facilities where the building is open for Social Work and the Library. Please check with individual Lifestyles for details of these exceptions and opening times. Fairhill Lifestyles will be closed 23, 25, 26, 30 December and 1, 2 January.

Cultural Venues

Hamilton Townhouse and Rutherglen Town Hall will be closed 23-26 December and 29 December-2 January with the exception of 29 December for Hamilton Townhouse which will be open for a show. Lanark Memorial Hall will be closed 23 December – 2 January. East Kilbride Village Theatre will be closed 25, 26 and 30 December – 2 January. East Kilbride Arts Centre will be closed 24-26 December and 30 December – 2 January.

Please check our website

www.slleisureandculture.co.uk

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



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
Leisure & Culture

www.slleisureandculture.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 Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December 2018 and Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 January 2019.

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 2018/19 festive period outlined below.

There will be no collections on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December 2018, instead collections will be carried out two day later as follows:

Week Commencing 24 December

Normal collection day		New collection day	
Monday	24 December	Monday	24 December
Tuesday	25 December	Thursday	27 December
Wednesday	26 December	Friday	28 December
Thursday	27 December	Saturday	29 December
Friday	28 December	Sunday	30 December

There will be no collections on Tuesday 1 January 2019, instead collections will be carried out one day later as follows:

Week Commencing 31 December

Normal collection day		New collection day	
Monday	31 December	Monday	31 December
Tuesday	1 January	Wednesday	2 January
Wednesday	2 January	Thursday	3 January
Thursday	3 January	Friday	4 January
Friday	4 January	Saturday	5 January

- We recommend putting your house number on your bins
- Please place your bin at your normal collection point by 7am on your uplift day and return to an appropriate storage area as soon as possible after emptying

Due to the Festive period and the Council's focus on completing the wheeled bin collections, there will be no online or phone bookings taken for bulk uplifts or green waste collections between Monday 24 December 2018 and Friday 4 January 2019 inclusive.

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
- Peel Park Industrial Estate, East Kilbride
- Blantyre Industrial Estate, Blantyre
- Strutherhill Industrial Estate, Larkhall
- Castlehill Industrial Estate, Carluke
- 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 closing in line with the closure of offices section. The Hamilton Town House office will be closed on Monday 24 December and Monday 31 December and the Rutherglen office will be closed Monday 24 December, Saturday 29 December and Monday 31 December. Registration appointments will be available at the Council Headquarters, Almada Street, Hamilton on Monday 24 December and Monday 31 December, please refer to Council website to arrange an appointment.

Arrangements for the registration of births, deaths and marriages and the delivery of other Council service 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 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

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Being aware is the secret to a happy and safe Christmas



Christmas is fast approaching and officers are offering the gift of free advice on common consumer problems they see at this time of year.

Unscrupulous traders work all year round but they are a particular danger at Christmas when they aim to exploit people on tight budgets and looking for a bargain – which is almost all of us in these difficult financial times.

The range of fake goods on the market has always been wide and, in recent years, it has increased with a selection of new phoney products including tech gadgets such as mobile phones, tablets, and chargers being added to long standing traditional counterfeit items like perfume, DVDs, cigarettes/tobacco and clothing.

Shirley Clelland, Head of Fleet and Environmental Services at South Lanarkshire Council, said: “The advice to consumers is, as always, to be on guard for counterfeit items in the old, familiar selling places like markets, car boot sales, pubs and door to door.

“But these days the massive growth in online shopping has brought a lot of new dangers into play, including fake websites and online auction sites. Now, we are also finding that social media sites are increasingly being used and can prove very difficult to call to account as they are often based abroad.”

Trading standards officers are warning that fake goods never offer a good deal. Quality is at best questionable, leading to disappointment and wasted money, and some copycat products are actually dangerous, such as:

- ★ unsafe chargers for mobile phones and other electrical devices can give electric shocks or cause fires and explosions;
- ★ alcoholic drinks can contain methanol, antifreeze or fuel, causing nausea, stomach pains, kidney or liver problems, coma or death;
- ★ cigarettes can contain dangerously high tar levels or be contaminated with other substances;

- ★ make-up can contain lead, copper, mercury, arsenic or cadmium and can cause swelling, rashes and poisoning;

- ★ unofficial merchandise such as toys and dressing-up clothes can pose numerous hazards with small loose parts, long cords and materials that are toxic or not fire-retardant.

In addition to the issue of fake goods, customers must also be aware of the dangers posed by scammers who look to steal their money.

Fake Delivery Notifications are sent to your email from scammers purporting to be from one of the major carriers like, for example, Royal Mail, ParcelForce, FedEx or DPD. These scams are likely to be a phishing attempt, where you would click on a link within the email and be sent to a fake website that looks genuine enough to make it difficult to tell the difference from the real thing. The site will ask for personal information and, once they have it, the scammers can use it as they please.

Christmas time is a big opportunity for this scam because, with the huge amount of online shopping taking place, many people will be waiting for a parcel from at least one of the major carriers.

Fake Mobile Apps take advantage of the fact that, during the festive season, new mobile apps are often launched, promising to make Christmas shopping easier or offering rewards for shopping with particular retailers. Many are genuine but some can carry malware designed to steal personal data.

Shirley Clelland said: “Try to always download apps from the Google Play or Apple App store but, if you must download software from other sources, be extremely careful and make sure you research the app before you download. We also advise not to share personal data with any app or website you don’t trust completely.”

WINTER AWARENESS



THE last few weeks have seen a noticeable dip in temperatures – and residents can rest assured South Lanarkshire Council will do everything it can to keep the road network moving.

The handy infographic below breaks down the fleet and personnel the council can call on – as well as providing handy tips and hints you can use to help yourself.

Chair of the council’s Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, Councillor John Anderson, said: “We appreciate the effect harsh winter conditions can have on people trying to go about their day to day business.

“As a council we do everything we can to keep roads clear, but people need to remember that we tackle the primary routes first.

“We don’t have the resources to grit every street in South Lanarkshire and often once we have finished the primary routes we need to start treating them again, especially if it rains as the grit can be washed away.

“We grit about 52% of our roads when ice or snow is forecast which is more than the Scottish average of 47%.

“If you are clearing snow and ice from outside your own home please consider doing the same for neighbours who may not be able carry out such physical work themselves.”

Our service to you

Salt usage and spend



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

Time taken to cover route



Length of road network



Vehicles and equipment

We can call on our fleet of **40 gritters**, **55 snowploughs**, **one snowblower**, **19 tractors**, **five loaders** and **200 roads workers** to salt the roads, clear snow and keep road and footpaths maintained by us in a safe condition as far as possible.



Number of grit bins



How to help yourself

In the car



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

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



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

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

At home



Do you have a snow shovel?

Footpaths in residential areas will generally not be gritted by the council, so you can help by clearing your own footpath and helping less able



Top tips when snow arrives

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

Use ordinary table salt on your path to stop ice forming.

Locations of grit bins are available by visiting www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

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



GREAT WAR HERO CALDWELL COMMÉMORATED IN CARLUKE

ONE of Carluke's WW1 heroes has been honoured at a special commemoration in the town.

South Lanarkshire Council Provost, Ian McAllan, led the proceedings, along with Lord Lieutenant, Lady Susan Haughey, as a memorial stone was blessed and laid in memory of Sergeant Thomas Caldwell in Market Square.

The event, organised by the council with support from Thomas Caldwell's family and the Carluke Historical Society, took place 100 years to the day since the battle of Audenarde, towards the end of WW1, for which Sgt Caldwell was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Almost five decades since Thomas died, aged 74, the town came to a standstill to listen to dedications from the Provost, the Royal Regiment of Scotland, and Mr Caldwell's grandson Christopher Duncan who had travelled 5000 miles from his home in Hong Kong to take part.

Pupils from Kirkton and St Athanasius Primary Schools, who had worked on a project based on local recipients of the Victoria Cross, were also there, and the last post was played by a young musician from Carluke High School as Rev Ian Cunningham of Kirkton Church carried out the blessing of the memorial.

Said Provost McAllan: "Thomas Caldwell was a son of Carluke whose actions on this very day a century ago delivered so many other sons safely back to their families.

"By laying and dedicating this memorial stone in his home town this morning we honour Thomas' name, we recognise his bravery and we acknowledge his achievements. We give thanks for his life and for the actions he took to preserve our freedom."



Provost McAllan, Christopher Duncan and Cllr Mark Horsham, the council's Veterans' Champion.

Mr Caldwell's grandson, Christopher Duncan, said he wouldn't have missed the ceremony, despite the 10000 mile round trip.

He said: "Today is 100 years to the day that my grandfather, who was 24 years of age at the time, undertook a selfless and remarkable act of bravery. He was in command of his section and was engaged in clearing a farmhouse when his section came under intense fire at close range. My grandfather rushed immediately towards the farm house, captured the enemy position single-handed and took 18 prisoners.

"When you hear this you could easily imagine him as this tough, aggressive character, However, the truth is the complete opposite. He was a peaceful, loving and caring man, who I'm sad never to have met. He died just a few months before I was born.

"But when mum told me about this event I just knew that it was so important to have a member of the family here and I'm so thrilled to have had this opportunity.

"I would like to thank the council, Carluke Historical Society and the people of Carluke for their unflinching determination and commitment to keeping my grandfather's memory alive."

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE'S MUSEUM UNVEILS ARMISTICE 100 EXHIBITION

A NEW photographic exhibition was created to mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War at Low Parks Museum.

The images taken from the Cameronians Regimental Collection, which is maintained by South Lanarkshire's museum service, included photographs taken by the officers and men of the regiment some of which were rarely or never been on public display before.

In addition to the posed photographs taken by official photographers, the exhibition included a fascinating selection of more casual shots of The Cameronians engaged in day-to-day activity on the frontlines of WW1.

The photographic exhibition was supported by a display of artworks created by pupils from schools across South Lanarkshire.

The pupils worked with Hamilton based artist Allison Smith who has a personal connection to the Cameronians through her maternal grandfather who was a member of the regiment. Her mother was born at the Cameronians Hamilton Barracks.



CONNECTION: Artist Allison Smith worked on the project

Allison said: "I have this very direct family connection to the regiment but all I really knew of my grandfather was the stories handed down and he always seemed like this slightly distant military man in a tightly buttoned uniform. Because of that I was keen to get the pupils to focus on the man behind the soldier.

"We started by reading some of the personal letters from the soldiers that are held in the Cameronians Collection and that helped bring them to life as real people who walked the same streets of South Lanarkshire that the children know today."

Provost of South Lanarkshire, Ian McAllan, who opened the exhibition, said: "This year we mark 100 years since the ending of the First World War but an exhibition like this helps remind us of the true cost of conflict, it underlines that the lives lost are not just statistics in the history books but people husbands, fathers, sons and indeed mothers and daughters."

The following schools worked with Allison to create the artworks:

- Hamilton**
St John's, Hamilton; St Mary's, Hamilton; Woodside, Hamilton; Our Lady and St Anne's, Hamilton; David Livingstone Memorial Primary, Hamilton
- East Kilbride**
St Andrew's and St Bride's, Chapelton Primary, Canberra Primary, Heathery Knowe
- Clydesdale**
Lanark Grammar, Underbank Primary
- Cambuslang/ Rutherglen**
Park View

Council goes red to show support for poppy appeal

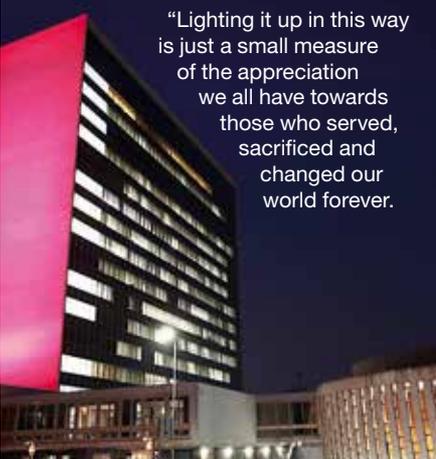
SOUTH Lanarkshire Council's HQ in Hamilton was lit up red to show support for the Scottish Poppy Appeal.

In the run up to Remembrance Sunday, a gable end of the building – at the Douglas Street side – was illuminated red.

The council's Veteran's Champion, Councillor Mark Horsham, said: "I was delighted that the council agreed to remember the sacrifices made by so many in this way.

"The council HQ is an iconic building and can be seen for miles across South Lanarkshire.

"Lighting it up in this way is just a small measure of the appreciation we all have towards those who served, sacrificed and changed our world forever.



South Lanarkshire pays its respects

EVENTS were held across South Lanarkshire on Remembrance Day to remember the bravery of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Remembrance Sunday this year also marked the centenary of the end of the First World War.

There were large scale Remembrance Services at the war memorials in East Kilbride, Lanark and Rutherglen, as well as community services throughout South Lanarkshire organised by churches and community groups.

The annual Civic Remembrance Service for the council was held at the war memorial in Bothwell Road Park.

South Lanarkshire Provost Ian McAllan said: "Those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom can never be forgotten.

"The lives they gave so selflessly, and the pain of loss for those relatives, friends and comrades who they left behind never truly fades.

"The events that have taken place across South Lanarkshire have made me proud that so many people want to remember and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"It really has been a time when communities have come together to pay tribute to the bravery of those men and women."

The council's Veteran's Champion, Councillor Mark Horsham, said: "Remembrance events are of course always very special and emotional, but they have had an added poignancy this year as they marked the centenary of the end of the First World War.



RESPECT: The Service at Bothwell Road Park