

TheView

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council



New recruit makes debut as ..
**SAFETY MASCOT
HITS THE ROAD**

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Meet superstar pals of
**BRAVE
TEENAGER**

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Council dog dirt blitz to collar lazy owners



Enforcement officers will be targeting notorious hotspots across South Lanarkshire where owners habitually fail to pick up after their pets

By **Mhairi Anderson**

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council is launching a tough crackdown on dog fouling and the owners who fail to pick up after their pets.

The move comes in response to public concern over the issue and will see a targeted campaign of increased patrols by enforcement officers and a new 'dish the dirt' poster campaign reminding owners of their responsibilities.

Council Leader Eddie McAvoy said people using parks and recreational areas, as well as footpaths, were fed up having to run the



very real risk of stepping in something unpleasant and he warned £40 fixed penalty notices will be given to those flouting the rules.

Members of the public are being urged to do their bit by reporting those dog owners habitually failing to clear up after their pets.

"Dog fouling is a blight on our streets and public spaces," said the Council Leader.

"And we are determined to tackle this issue for the good of everyone – local residents and visitors to our great parks and leisure attractions alike. We all have to take pride in our area and that includes dog owners, who may not fully realise the impact their thoughtlessness has."

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INSIDESTORY

Rinkupgrade



£1.5m makeover for iconic town centre retail complex

Healthyeating



Council's winter school meals menu scoops top award

Farflungpupils



Teenagers enjoy Far East adventure of a lifetime



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Pupils from Hareleeshill Primary with the new road safety mascot Simone. P4 pupil Nathan Moody came up with the idea for the eye-catching mascot and his winning design was reproduced as posters now displayed at the school

Selfish school-run parents targeted

PUPILS from a South Lanarkshire primary have been highlighting the dangers caused by irresponsible drivers parking outside their school.

Youngsters at Hareleeshill Primary, Larkhall, were joined by Councillor Graham Simpson, chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Roads Safety Forum, to hammer home the message that parking on yellow zig-zag lines, pavements, or other areas near school entrances, is both selfish and dangerous.

The "Park Smart" campaign aims to raise awareness of the

dangers of irresponsible parking outside schools and encourage drivers to find a safe place to park when they pick up or drop off.

Councillor Simpson said: "Children's lives are put in danger every time a parent or carer parks irresponsibly near school entrances. "This isn't about convenience and saving time – it is about keeping our children safe when they are crossing roads outside schools.

"There are so many other options available to parents, such as parking a short distance away and walking, that irresponsible or dangerous parking can be easily

avoided. The pupils and staff at Hareleeshill are very aware of how serious a matter this is and I congratulate them on their efforts to highlight the danger."

Inspector David Carballo, of Police Scotland, added: "It is disappointing that many parents and other drivers continue to park indiscriminately outside schools.

"Parked vehicles can hide children and adults trying to cross the road and the potentially tragic outcomes should be clear to all.

"Responsibility for parking in a safe place to pick up or drop off children rests with the driver."

Antisocial behaviour advice website launched

A WEBSITE giving advice and information on a range of antisocial behaviour issues has been launched across South Lanarkshire.

The *It's Your Choice* website, aimed at P6 – S1 pupils, is divided into three zones, including a password-protected area for teaching professionals and youth workers.

The site includes films that are made by pupils on various topics with hints and tips on how to develop these into class discussions.

It features a wide range of information and advice for pupils and families regarding drugs, alcohol, violence, mental health and wellbeing, as well as dealing with issues including how serious organised crime can be and how it affects local communities.

According to Councillor Jean McKeown, chair of the council's Education Resources Committee, it is an excellent resource and an outstanding example of what can be achieved when agencies work together.

"This project was originally developed for pupils in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area but I encourage all our schools to look at how they can use it, and promote the website to parents and carers, as it contains the up-to-date, accurate information they need," she adds.

"I would also encourage teachers to submit their own experiences and ideas to support the ongoing development and updating of the site."

The initiative has been running in Rutherglen since 2006 and is a partnership approach drawing on expertise from the council, NHS Lanarkshire and Police Scotland.

Queen's baton tour of South Lanarkshire

THE Queen's baton will pass through South Lanarkshire ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

As part of the 288-day relay leading up to the opening of the Games on July 23, the baton is visiting 70 nations and UK territories.

The baton will pass through South Lanarkshire for around 10 hours on Sunday, June 22.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for the tour to visit every local town due to time restrictions.

The route, currently under consideration, will go through Lanark, Carluke, East Kilbride, Rutherglen, Uddingston, Bothwell and Hamilton.



The multi-million-pound makeover of the ice-rink in East Kilbride will help cement the town's status as a retail and leisure mecca, attracting visitors from all over the Central Belt and beyond

Ice rink upgrade adds new firepower to mall

By James Davitt

A NEW multi-million-pound ice rink leisure facility is to be created in East Kilbride.

An initial £1.5million being spent on upgrading and improving the ice rink by South Lanarkshire Council is likely to be added to by a variety of new family-orientated restaurants, as well as a new gym, by the owners of the shopping and leisure centre.

Advanced discussions are underway with various high-profile restaurant chains and a gym operator, with the new elements operating alongside the existing cinema complex.

The full development programme – which is scheduled to start this year and could be completed in late 2015 – will also see major improvements to the public areas throughout the Olympia mall, cementing East Kilbride's status as a major shopping and leisure destination across the Central Belt.

Upgrading work on the ice rink will begin later on this summer and is expected to take around 12 months to complete. The develop-

£1.5M INVESTMENT TO TRANSFORM OLYMPIA CENTRE

ments follow months of work by the East Kilbride Task Force, which includes representatives from the council, Scottish Enterprise, Business Gateway, Lanarkshire Enterprise Services, Skills Development Scotland, Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce, South Lanarkshire College and Cogent on behalf of EK, East Kilbride.

Council Leader Eddie McAvoyn said: "This is fantastic news for East Kilbride. Creating a leisure hub within the shopping centre is something we are delighted to support and I am sure will be a great success.

"The ice rink is still very well used, with more than 100,000 visitors each year.

"Unfortunately, it is now around 25 years old and needs a major refurbishment if it is to continue to be fit for purpose. This announcement safeguards the future of the ice rink and ensures it will be at the heart of this exciting, new leisure development."

Richard Low, a partner at Cogent, said:

"The opportunity of building on the cinema anchor by providing a fantastic new ice rink and, hopefully, lots of new restaurants and a state-of-the-art gym will create a fabulous leisure hub that will keep East Kilbride shopping centre vibrant long into the night.

"This development will build on EK's position as one of the region's leading retail and leisure destinations.

"The proposed new development is a key part of our ongoing development programme. Our aim is to deliver a high-quality, family-focused leisure destination that will complement the improved retail experience we are delivering across the centre.

"There is still a lot of work to be done and we appreciate that the closure of a number of units and the food court may be disruptive.

"But all of this is necessary to deliver a top-class leisure development that meets the aspirations of our customers and of East Kilbride." The leisure development news

follows a number of significant retail openings in East Kilbride, including the launch of a 22,000sq ft flagship H&M store in Centre West, and the arrival of BANK Fashion, JD Sports and jewellery store Pandora in the Plaza.

"I am also delighted that both homebargains and JD Wetherspoon will be arriving in the shopping centre this year," adds Mr Low.

The ice rink is currently operated by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd and is held under a lease by the council, with a sub-lease to the trust. This arrangement would continue once the work has been completed and a new 25-year lease agreed with the town centre owners.

Councillor McAvoyn added: "The news is confirmation of the hard work being carried out by the council and its partners on the Task Force. The Action Plan gives a clear direction and focus for the town in the short, medium and long-term."



When brave Lauchlan met Harry at awards



SCHOOLBOY IS NAMED BRITAIN'S MOST INSPIRATIONAL CHILD AFTER UNDERGOING MORE THAN 50 BRAIN OPERATIONS

NOT many 11-year-olds can count superstar Rod Stewart among their email contacts, or say they have met Prince Harry – but South Lanarkshire schoolboy Lauchlan Dougall can.

But then not many children have been hailed the UK's most inspirational child, after enduring more than 50 brain operations and raising money to help others, despite his condition.

Lauchlan, a primary seven pupil at Auchinraith Primary School in Blantyre, has undergone a gruelling 54 brain operations and suffers debilitating headaches every day.

He started having surgery aged just three when an arachnoid cyst was found on the frontal lobe of his brain.

It is a growth that swells and causes pressure to build up in his skull. Surgeons have installed several shunts to allow the fluid to run from his brain to another part of his body. But the shunts continue to fail and need replacing regularly. His proud mum,



Debbie, has raised her son alone, along with his 18-year-old sister, Amber, since his dad, Barry, died of skin cancer three years ago.

She explained: "When he was a toddler, Lauchlan would get really bad headaches and hit his head against the wall.

"To this day, if he's got a really bad headache, he'll hit his head against walls.

"Lauchlan looks and acts like a normal wee boy but has headaches every day but he handles them so well.

"There is no other treatment and this has been his life for the last nine years. He is the bravest person I know."

Due to the number of operations, Lauchlan has also developed complex hydrocephalus, also known as 'water on the brain'.

Despite his nine-year ordeal, Lauchlan is extremely matter of fact when discussing his situation.

He said: "The headaches are constant but I've had them for so long I kind of got used to them.

"Sometimes I



IF THE CAP FITS: Lauchlan Dougall presents a Scots 'see you Jimmy' tammy to Prince Harry at the glittering Wellchild awards ceremony in London, where he also met Duncan Bannatyne and Tess Daly, below



am in and out in a few days after an operation and sometimes it takes me a while to bounce back.

"The nurses are always really nice and, since my ward moved to Yorkhill, my favorite has been Donald.

"It's also good when my teachers come and visit me in hospital – and I get to play the X Box. I've had operations for all sorts of things, to get shunts fitted to drain fluid to other parts of my body and to get work done to expand my skull.

"Each time, I hope it's my last operation but you never know what's round the corner."

And it's this mature attitude that led big sister Amber to enter him into the Wellchild Awards.

She was delighted when she received a letter back to say that Lauchlan had won in the category of Most Inspirational Child.

The family was whisked down to London for a stay at the Dorchester, before attending a star-studded awards ceremony where they rubbed shoulders with royalty and celebrities.

Lauchlan wasn't phased by it all, saying he was more excited than nerv-

ous. "I met Prince Harry who said that he liked my kilt, so I gave him a tartan hat to keep," he says.

"He later wrote me a letter to thank me for it, so he must have liked that as well. Tess Daly and Vernon Kay were presenting the awards and, when I walked off stage, Vernon told me I was the bravest boy he had ever met."

Lauchlan also met 'Dragon' Duncan Bannatyne, singer Pixie Lott and the band Scouting for Girls, to name just a few of the celebs he rubbed shoulders with.

But the teenager's closest celebrity friend is none other than Rod Stewart, far left. The two Celtic fans exchange emails about the team's games and last year Rod took Lauchlan to Parkhead – and has promised he'll take him again.

Lauchlan said: "It was good going to the football with Rod and we were in the directors' box. He has said that I can use his seat anytime.

"I emailed him during a game and got a reply back saying he was watching the game from Palm Beach, Florida."

Head Teacher Julie McCulloch says that, despite having to miss school when he is in and out of hospital, Lauchlan is doing well with his coursework.

"Lauchlan is a truly inspirational boy and the whole school is extremely proud of him," she says.

"He has a sunny disposition and is always smiling.

"Lauchlan is outgoing, responsive and responsible and is a real asset to the school. He also fundraises for others and raised more than £2000 for the Children's Brain Injury Trust."

And for the future? Lauchlan is looking forward to his first game in the school's football team and starting at Calderside Academy. He would like to be a footballer when he grows up – that or a neurosurgeon.



SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL'S SCHOOL MEALS WINTER MENU WINS TOP AWARD



Pupils at St Elizabeth's Primary in Hamilton met the Go Fresh gang, including Sean McMonagle, main, and Josh McPartlin and Monica Smith, left inset, with Monica having a go at milking, above



Recipe for success

By Mhairi Anderson

SOUTH Lanarkshire pupils are tucking into award-winning school dinners over the winter months.

At a time when the quality of food is under the microscope, news that the council's school meals service has earned a top award will be welcomed by parents across the area.

South Lanarkshire Council, as well as being the first catering service in the UK to achieve the Food for Life Catering Mark for its community meals, has now been awarded a Bronze Award for its primary school meals winter menu from the Soil Association.

The Food for Life Catering Mark is the Soil Association's prestigious national food award.

It is the UK's only independent certification scheme setting standards of traceability, quality and provenance for public and private sector meals to ensure standards are met.

"We are delighted to have achieved the Soil Association's Bronze Food for Life Catering Mark for our winter

menus in all 124 primary schools throughout South Lanarkshire," said Stephen Kelly, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services.

"This is an excellent achievement and I am extremely proud of the efforts our staff have made to ensure the health and wellbeing of all our primary school children."

According to Stephen, people are increasingly demanding healthier meal choices for themselves and their families, as well as asking for reassurance about where their food comes from.

"At South Lanarkshire Council we are committed to providing food that's good for our children, for our communities and for our planet," he added.

"The Soil Association's Catering Mark shows we are committed to providing fresh food you can trust, sourcing environmentally sustainable and ethical food, making healthy eating easier and championing local food producers."

Stephen pointed out that all of the meat on the primary school winter menus was from farms that satisfy UK welfare standards, with 75 per cent of dishes being freshly prepared.

South Lanarkshire is one of eight local authorities championing

the Catering Mark in Scotland and is among those leading the way for improved public sector catering.

Laura Stewart, Director of Soil Association Scotland, said: "South Lanarkshire Council was the first in the UK to pioneer the Food for Life Catering Mark and was awarded Bronze for their Community Meals Service earlier this year.

"I'm delighted that they have followed this up so quickly with another Bronze Food for Life Catering Mark for their primary school meals service.

"Food plays such a vital role in our health and wellbeing throughout our lives, and the council has now made the commitment that not only their aged care customers, but their primary and nursery pupils, too, can enjoy fresh, seasonal, healthy and tasty meals that are better for animal welfare and the environment."

The Go Fresh Gang – the council's healthy eating mascots – were on hand to



help the children of St Elizabeth's Primary School in Hamilton promote the healthy winter menu.

Each of the characters represents an aspect of the council's healthy eating ethos:

- Alan the Apple promises all meals are freshly prepared each day with seasonal produce
- Colin the Carrot promises menus are free from undesirable additives and trans fats

- Sally the Strawberry promises portioned seasonal fruit is available on a daily basis

- Becky the Broccoli promises the three-week menu has been nutritionally analysed and is compliant with the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007

- Pete the Potato promises unlimited vegetables, salad, bread and fresh chilled water are available with all meals

- Gaz the Grape promises you can pre-order and guarantee the meal of your choice.





Thumbs up for staff who keep schools clean and maintained

JANITORIAL, cleaning and catering staff have been given the thumbs-up for high standards of school maintenance and cleaning.

The accolade comes after the council bucked the trend by retaining their own staff in new secondary schools, which were built under public, private partnership (PPP).

Rather than have 'soft services' carried out by the contractor, in 2006 the council successfully lobbied the Scottish Government to keep them in-house.

And seven years down the line that move has certainly paid off.

The Scottish Futures Trust (SFT), an independent company set up by – but operating at arm's length from – the Scottish Government, visited four secondary schools to review their condition and the standards of maintenance and cleaning.

They chose two refurbished schools – Stonelaw High and Hamilton Grammar – and two new-builds – Calderglen High and Biggar High.

The trust was so impressed by what it found that it has now recommended that, in any future PPP-funded schools, janitorial, cleaning and catering services should be retained in-house by the local authority.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, chair of the council's Community Services Committee, said: "This is great testament to more than 400 of our Facilities staff, who work diligently to provide quality services throughout for the children and education staff in our schools.

"They are to be praised indeed for both the work they put in each day and for their caring attitude in looking after our pupils, teachers and staff in all schools in South Lanarkshire."

Scotland's top law lord visits 'Street' drama

SCOTLAND'S top legal officer has attended a special performance of the interactive drama *The Street*.

Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland watched the latest version of *The Street*, which is aimed at helping young people challenge their actions in society and discourage antisocial behaviour.

The QC was invited along to the special dramatisation by the council's youth spokesman, Councillor Davie McLachlan, after they previously judged an anti-sectarianism art competition run by the authority.

During his visit to the Hamilton-based project, the Lord Advocate heard about some success stories from a few of the young people who have visited *The Street*.

Cast members Nicole Connelly and Kyle McCulloch told invited guests their stories and explained why they believe being involved in *The Street* changed their lives for the better.

The Lord Advocate spoke positively about the drama and its impact, before thanking the young people involved for their excellent performances.

THE creation of a single police service in Scotland in April last year brought about a significant change in the way that the police in Scotland would be held to account.

An independent body called the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC) was established to investigate serious incidents involving the police, with Professor John McNeill as the Commissioner.

The Commissioner's investigations are carried out either under the direction of Crown, at the request of the Scottish Police Authority, or the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland.

The types of incidents he investigates are deaths where the person has had recent contact with the police, deaths in custody, road collisions involving police vehicles and discharges of firearms, including tasers, by police officers.

The Commissioner can also instigate an investigation himself where there is a clear public interest.

Previously known as the Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland, Professor McNeill is also responsible for reviewing the way that all police bodies operating in Scotland handle non-criminal complaints

Commissioner is independent watchdog for the new single Scottish police service



Professor John McNeill investigates serious incidents involving the Police Scotland

from the public they serve. The Commissioner is independent of the police and his service is free and impartial.

If you have a non-criminal complaint about the police there are some things you have to do before you can request a review by the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner:

- you must first complain directly to the relevant police body, using its internal complaints procedure.

Contact details for all police bodies operating in Scotland are on the PIRC website www.pirc.scotland.gov.uk. If, at the end of that process, you remain dissatisfied with the way your complaint was handled, then you can request a review by the PIRC

- you must make your request for a review within three months of being notified of the outcome of your complaint by the police.

There is lots more info on the role of the Commissioner, as well as help on how to go about making a complaint about the police and requesting a review, at www.pirc.scotland.gov.uk. There you can view or download a copy of the leaflet *A guide for the public on the role of the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner*. The Commissioner can also be contacted on 0808 178 5577 or 01698 542900 or by emailing enquiries@pirc.gsi.gov.uk

Jordan put his thinking app on to attract Apple

By Sarah Burrows

COMPUTING whizz kid Jordan Duncan is taking the app world by storm.

Apps are software applications designed to run on smartphones and tablet computers.

And Apple, world leaders in this form of technology, were so impressed with Jordan's they have agreed to sell it.

The 17-year-old Calderglen High pupil designed an app called Idlefire, which is available on download from Apple's iOS app store and is also being picked up by Google Play Store.

It is also being rolled-out to pupils and staff in school and Jordan has his sights on being able to sell the software to other South Lanarkshire schools, with an eye on turning a profit.

The Idlefire app, which Jordan, of S6, demonstrated to staff at an in-service day, is designed to enhance communication between teachers and pupils.

Staff members have just come on-stream and are confident that the system is going to speed-up communication and ensure all school notices are relevant and up-to-date.

All pupil notices are now channelled via Idlefire and both pupil and staff notices are accessible through all school computers, as well as the mobile devices of pupils and staff.

Idlefire allows notices to be uploaded at short notice, which will be particularly helpful in communicating last-minute changes to arrangements, or in emergency situations where communication is required as a matter of urgency.

Idlefire also has a facility for pupils to store their individual timetables and has a shortcut to



Calderglen High's Jordan Duncan has designed an app to help communication between teachers and school pupils

the school website, through which notices can also be viewed.

Jordan plans to extend the app's scope to include homework planning.

He is also in the process of setting up a Google Chrome extension that will allow all pupils to run Idlefire on their home computers.

All pupils were given a final demonstration after which they were able to download Idlefire to their own mobile devices.

The app consists of customised server software and a mobile app compatible with iPhone and Android platforms. It allows staff

to easily submit and manage pupil notices and pupils to view them anywhere.

The app also features a timetable that pupils can use to keep track of their classes.

Jordan is planning a wide-scale distribution of Idlefire in order to allow more school pupils and teachers to use the app.

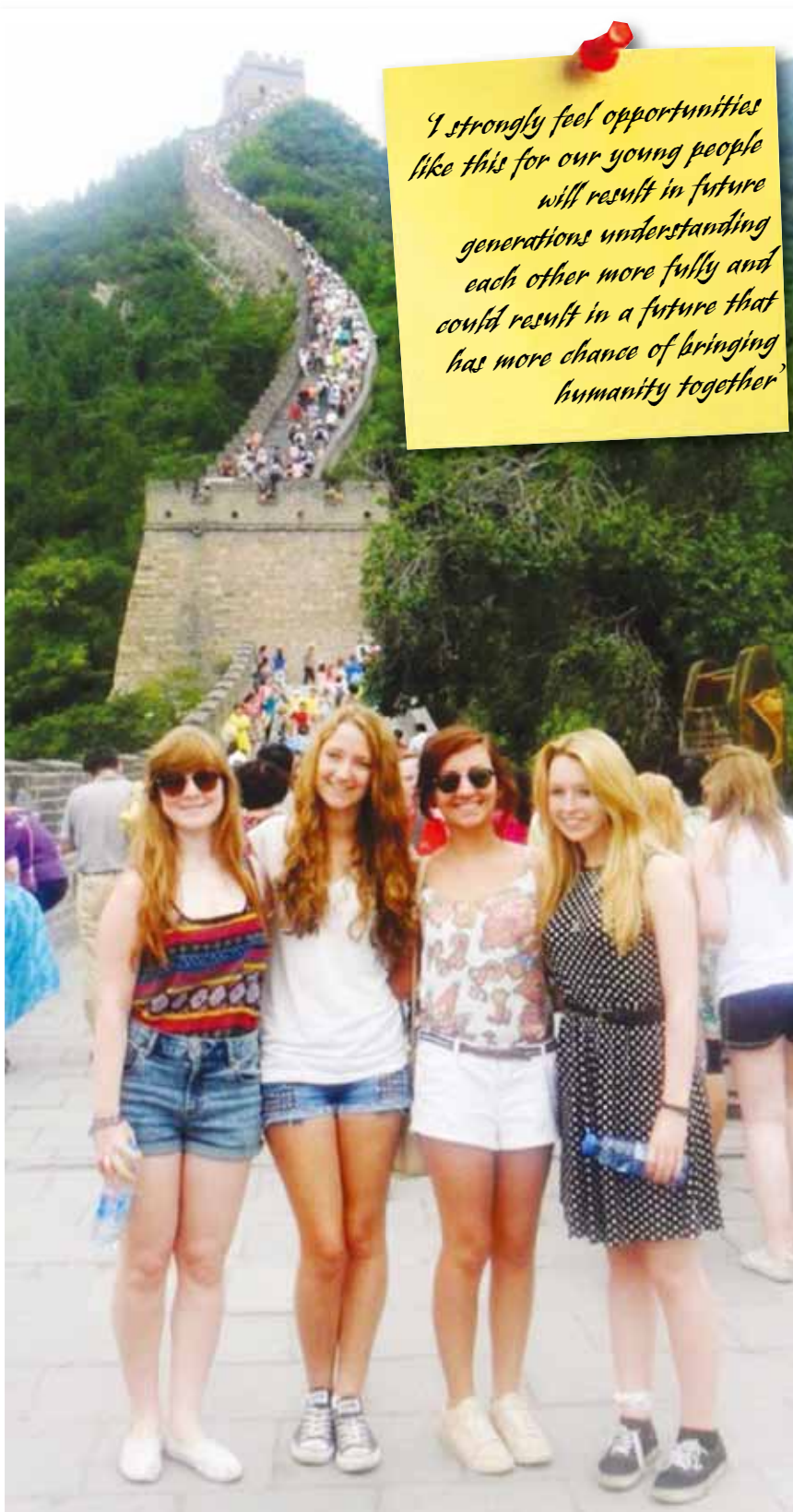
The teenager has always excelled in areas of design technology, yet he only took Computing as a subject formally in his sixth year, which he is managing comfortably at Higher.

He has achieved highly in Graphic Communication, Physics

and Music with Technology. As well as a natural ability for design technology, in S4 Jordan created software for pupils to upload articles they had written to the school magazine.

Out of school, Jordan plays in a rock band, called *For What You're Worth*. And, while he was in S4, he recorded and engineered four songs for his band, using his expertise gained through his study of Music Technology.

Jordan aims to become an app developer and has already gained an unconditional offer to study Mobile Software Engineering at Glasgow University.



'I strongly feel opportunities like this for our young people will result in future generations understanding each other more fully and could result in a future that has more chance of bringing humanity together'

South Lanarkshire pupils at the Great Wall of China



Pupils get into the spirit of things dancing in the street outside the fo



Making new friends



Pupils were made to feel welcome

China

By Sarah Burrows

SCHOOL trips are always memorable and that is certainly the case for one group of pupils who jetted almost 5000 miles across the world for a taste of adventure in the Far East.

The group of six fifth year pupils from Hamilton Grammar, Strathaven Academy, Calderside Academy and Biggar High jumped at the chance to embark on the trip of a lifetime to China to experience first-hand its language, culture and tradition.

They travelled to Beijing and Tianjin and spent almost three weeks living and breathing the vibrant Chinese culture.

Biggar High School's Hannah Stuart was one of the lucky pupils who made the trip.

Reflecting on the experience, she said: "I only found out I was chosen to go four months prior to the trip and I was nervous but excited to see what these two and a half weeks would involve.

"I had only met the five other people I

was going with once at a parents' night, so was looking forward to getting to know them better."

Despite only having met briefly before setting off, the group bonded quickly, all equally determined to make the very most of the unique opportunity.

During their first week, the pupils visited Beijing zoo, the Olympic Park, the centre point of which is the iconic Bird's Nest stadium, and the Summer Palace.

They cycled around the city on small Chinese bikes and also visited the Science and Technology museum.

The amazing experience also saw pupils climb the Great Wall, visit the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square.

For the next 10 days, the group stayed in



Pupils enjoyed quality family time



Taking in the sights during their visit



amongst the Bird's Nest stadium



'Overall, the experience was amazing and I can't give it enough credit. I met some people I will definitely be friends with for a long time. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget and I'm so grateful to have had the chance to go'

Among the highlights of the pupils' visit was a visit to the iconic Olympic Birds' Nest stadium



One of the stunning vistas enjoyed by South Lanarkshire pupils during their Chinese visit



Pupils enjoyed a unique cultural opp



Enjoying a sightseeing trip

... on my mind

university halls in Tianjin, a city four hours from Beijing, during which time they attended a Chinese school.

Hannah explains: "Classes in school were challenging from the minute we walked in. But after only a day we could all introduce ourselves and talk about our home and family."

"Not only were there language lessons, we were also taught how to do some Chinese arts, such as silk fan painting, paper cutting and learning how to make Chinese knots."

The pupils may have been on holiday but there was no such thing as a long lie, as they were up at 6.30 every morning to do kung-fu and were busy with planned activities until 10pm.

Despite their action-packed itinerary the pupils did manage some downtime when

were able to fit in some retail therapy, as well as visiting art galleries, museums and the theatre.

According to Hannah, the highlight of the trip was going to No.3 high school in Tianjin, which is the partner school of Hamilton Grammar School, the Confucius Hub for South Lanarkshire.

The head girl of the Chinese school took some of the Scots pupils home to meet her family, where they made dumplings, watched Chinese films and played traditional games, as well as enjoying a taster session of Chinese teas.

It may have been a holiday of a lifetime for the teenagers but there was no escape from exams, with all of the pupils sitting a Mandarin language test to consolidate what they had learned during their time in China.

"Overall, the experience was amazing and I can't give it enough credit. I met some people that I will definitely be friends with for a long time," says Hannah.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget and I'm so grateful to have had the chance to go."

South Lanarkshire Council's Janey Mauchline, who arranged the trip, said there were numerous benefits for the pupils involved in what she described as a "life-changing experience".

"As one of 12 Confucius Hubs in Scotland, we have the opportunity to introduce pupils in our schools to Mandarin and Chinese culture," she adds.

"Native speakers like Su, our Chinese Language Assistant and Sophia, our Tianjin teacher, provide young people with a taste

of the real thing. But what better way for them to learn than to experience first-hand and literally be immersed in Chinese culture.

"The feedback we've had from the schools who took part has been unanimously positive.

"All six students have described the trip as life-changing.

"In today's shrinking world, they had the opportunity to study Mandarin intensively for 18 days, as well as to meet some incredible people, eat some delicious food and visit famous sights such as the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City and the Olympic Park.

"They also visited a real Chinese home and spent time with a family.

"I strongly feel that opportunities like this for our young people will result in future generations understanding each other more fully and could result in a future which has more chance of bringing humanity together.

"We hope to involve students in a similar trip this summer and planning is already at an advanced stage."



COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW ANTI-FOULING CAMPAIGN

'Dish the dirt' blitz on the lazy dog owners

By Mhairi Anderson

LAZY dog owners who fail to pick up after their mucky pups are soon to be targeted in a tough new crackdown.

And the public will be urged to help collar thoughtless owners by dishing the dirt and reporting anyone they see regularly allowing their pets to foul public spaces.

A hard-hitting poster campaign is shortly being launched across South Lanarkshire and enforcement officers will be following up tips from the public about repeat offenders, as well as conducting regular sweeps during prime dog-walking times to hand out fixed penalty notices.

Failing to pick up after your dog is illegal as a result of The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 and can lead to conviction and an on-the-spot fine of up to £40.

Members of the council's Environmental Services staff, and soon the Community Wardens, too, are authorised to issue fixed penalty notices to owners who do not clear up after their dogs.

You may not have given it much thought before but dog mess affects everyone and can be a serious health hazard for children, if they come in contact with it while playing in parks or open spaces.

In recent research to public attitudes to littering carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful, almost seven in 10 people rated dog fouling as the issue that bothered them most. And with around seven million dogs in the UK, producing 1000 tonnes of excrement per day, it's easy to see why there is a problem with dog dirt.

But it is also a health risk as dogs not treated regularly with worming pills can become infected with a type of worm that, if passed on to humans, can lead to a range of diseases.

Council Leader Eddie McAvoy is determined to see a reduction in the blight of dog fouling across South Lanarkshire.

"We have an excellent reputation for how we deal with the cleanliness of our streets," said Councillor McAvoy.

"But enforcement action and the fight against environmental crime continues in South Lanarkshire and there is no hiding place for those who blight our streets and open spaces.

"We recognise that here, as indeed nationally, the problems are growing year on year and we are constantly striving to raise awareness of environmental crimes in our communities, be it dog fouling, littering in our street, parks and surrounding countryside or fly tipping."

South Lanarkshire Council spends several million pounds every year clearing dog fouling, picking up litter, removing graffiti and dealing with fly-tipped waste and abandoned cars.

And Councillor McAvoy says in these times of austerity and cutbacks, this money could be better spent in a far more productive way, such as improving parks, play areas and a variety of other local amenities for the benefit of residents and



Dog owners are being urged to clean up after their pets by using the special bins provided

visitors. "While enforcement action is an option, it's not the sole solution – everyone needs to play their part in tackling the problem and the council's message is, let's all take responsibility for our environment and let's all work together to improve our environment and rid ourselves of this blight on our landscape," adds the Council Leader.

It means visitors to parks – including football teams, children and dog walkers – can enjoy the green space with less chance of stepping in something unpleasant.

As part of the council's dog mess blitz, 'Wanted' posters will be going up all over South Lanarkshire asking the public to give the council the information it needs to catch offenders in the act.

And after successful tip-offs from the public, 'Thank You' posters will follow, reinforcing the message that the council is taking positive action to collar nuisance

dog owners. The posters note that the 'Reward' for being good citizens is cleaner streets and a brighter, healthier, happier place to walk, play, live and work.

Anyone that can identify or describe an owner not cleaning up after their dog, can identify an area where this is happening at a regular time of day or night, or has info on an area that is causing concern, is asked to call 0845 740 6080 (standard local call from BT landline but other providers may charge differently), or email customer.services@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Responsible dog owners out and about with their pets are also urged to pass on information on those behaving less responsibly.

● Report the lazy culprits to 0845 740 6080 (standard rate call) and help get a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone.



Pupils face £50 fine for littering outside school in crackdown



By **Mhairi Anderson**

JOINT patrols by council enforcement officers and Police Scotland have been targeting known hot spots in a bid to curb the problem of lunch-time littering by school pupils.

It has become a hot-button issue for the public and the council has responded by moving from awareness-raising campaigns to enforcement.

This means that pupils now face on-the-spot fines of £50 if caught dropping litter such as fast food wrappers, cans or juice bottles.

Previously, only adults were given fixed penalty fines for littering but this has now been extended to include those aged under 16.

School teachers have been giving advice to pupils, parents and carers informing them that council enforcement officers and police are conducting joint patrols at well-known litter hot spots around secondary schools.

And that, with police in attendance, Fixed Penalty Notices of £50 would be issued to pupils found littering.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of the Council's Community Services Committee explains: "Fixed Penalty Notices of £50 for littering had, until 2011, only been served on adults who were seen to drop litter.

"Young people in South Lanarkshire had been excluded, as we felt our intensive programme of awareness-raising campaigns to combat littering was the best way forward.

"However, one of the key issues raised by the public is litter associated with school pupils travelling to and from school, and during lunch times.

"Therefore, following a pilot scheme that ended in October 2011, issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for littering in South Lanarkshire was extended to include all young people under the age of 16.

"Since then, litter enforcement patrols have been carried out where particular problems had been identified and areas around schools are being targeted. It is hoped there will be a noticeable reduction in the amount of litter present."

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THEIR MINING ANCESTORS



Pits, ponies and people

Report by **Sarah Burrows**

IT is Scotland's biggest pit disaster, during which 207 miners perished, leaving 92 widows and 250 children without a father.

The Blantyre mining disaster of October 22, 1877, lives on in infamy as the explosions that rocked pits No.2 and No.3 may have been prevented had miners' warnings about safety been heeded instead of ignored.

A group of pupils from Blantyre's Auchinraith Primary paid a visit to the National Mining Museum on the anniversary of the disaster last year.

Each of the P5-7 pupils had a family member who worked in the mines.

And the minute's silence they observed in the museum's new memorial room on the anniversary of the disaster was particularly poignant for all.

Lanarkshire's mining heritage is a source of fierce pride and none more so than in Blantyre where the community paid such a hefty price.

And helping to ensure that this proud heritage is celebrated is the Pits, Ponies, People and Stories Project, led by South



Lanarkshire Council and its various partners. It was awarded a £357,900 Lottery grant to enable the project to fulfill its objectives and takes the total contributions to £757,000.

The Pits, Ponies, People and Stories project has been in development in South Lanarkshire for the past two years, with various partners working together to consult with the community and submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Schools and community groups have worked hard during the development stage to ensure the application was a success and that generations to come will be able to explore the area's mining heritage.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant will allow the project to continue for a further two years and will include a local mining heritage resource project, a schools re-enactment and story book project, exhibition project and community film project.

● Look out for an expanded version of this story in the spring edition of the council's Reporter magazine, which will be delivered to every home in South Lanarkshire during March.



Dukes of Uke banjo way to fame..



THE Dukes of Hazzard may have gained notoriety for their high-speed car capers in the early '80s, writes *Euan Duguid*.

Now, in Lanarkshire's deepest south, 'The Dukes of Uke', a wacky ukulele ensemble, are also making a big name for themselves for their high-octane performances with the smallest member of the guitar family.

Yet, unlike their hell-raising American namesakes, the eight-piece band really are going the extra mile to help ongoing efforts to strengthen local communities for older people.

The Dukes, from Biggar, have been taking their distinctive music out to a variety of community events and are active supporters of the nationwide Reshaping Care for Older People (RCOP) programme.

RCOP aims to help growing numbers of older people to continue to live full, positive and independent lives in the community.

Lead uke player Ian Murray explained his ukulele band is the ideal accompaniment to that very ethos.

"The songs we perform cover a very wide range of musical styles, from rock and pop, country and western to folk," he explains. "I suppose people are surprised to see and hear these tiny instruments sounding great together – that's what makes it funny."

Ian, who works for South Lanarkshire Council, a key partner in the RCOP programme, adds: "We've played at many events for older people where they really come out of their shells, joining in the songs and laughing at the group's banter."

"We've seen even quite frail people get up to dance. Our music is a great icebreaker that can bring people together at events geared to preventing older people from falling into isolation, which is a key aim of the RCOP partnership."

RCOP partners include NHS Lanarkshire, North and South Lanarkshire Councils, the voluntary sector (not-for-profit and charitable organisations) and the independent sector, including care homes and care-at-home services.

● **For more information on The Dukes of Uke visit www.thedukesofuke.org.uk**

People given greater control over their support provision

PEOPLE with long-term health conditions are being empowered to take greater control over the type of support they receive.

Changes introduced under the new Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act come into effect in April and mean people will have far greater choice over the support package they receive from their local council.

It will allow them greater freedom and independence to live their lives, to make informed choices and to be actively involved and take more control of their support provision, rather than simply be passive recipients of care services.

The Act enshrines as its core principles the right of people to be involved, to have informed choice and to collaborate in their care plan and its delivery.

It further enshrines the right to dignity and to participate in community life.

Carers, too, are also to be given greater support under the terms of the new Act, with local authorities now required to consider whether they also have needs in their own right regarding their ability to provide care.

The four options for self-directed support that will be available to individuals when they are assessed as needing care and support or support as an adult carer are:

CHANGES WILL LEAD TO GREATER INDEPENDENCE

● Option 1 – Direct Payment:

The supported person – or an organisation or individual identified by them (a so-called "third party" direct payment) – receives the sum of money into a bank account. Then, either on their own or with help, they can buy the support they need. The supported person can use the resource as they wish, provided it secures the provision of support agreed and that it meets the outcomes in the support plan.

● Option 2 – Directing the available resource:

The individual selects the support that they want and the local authority – or a provider on their behalf – makes various administrative arrangements on the supported person's behalf. Unlike the direct payment there is no requirement for the funding to be provided directly to the individual as a cash payment.

● Option 3 – the local authority arranges support for the supported person:

The council arranges support on behalf of the supported person, in collaboration with the individual. With the appropriate support agreed, the council then makes arrangements on the supported person's behalf. Under this option, the supported person chooses to leave the day-to-day details and arrangements to the professional.

● Option 4 – Mix and match:

The supported person can choose to 'mix and match', with a combination of two or more of the options, recognising that some people will be happy to take some control but perhaps not the full control that comes with a direct payment.

This ensures maximum flexibility in the options available and may be attractive to people who would like to experiment with the direct payment, or individual service fund approach for a small aspect of their support, or for a small portion of their outcomes.

Under each of the four options, the council considers a reasonable estimate of the cost of securing the provision of support for the individual and this is termed the "relevant amount".

The council will also try to identify and involve third parties to help individuals when choosing their options for self-directed support, where mental health issues or physical disability might cause difficulties in communicating their wishes.

But any supported person is entitled to help from a third party in communicating decisions about their options and can expect the council to help identify and involve them in the process. Glasgow

Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL) has been commissioned to provide independent user-led support to users and carers to help them set up and manage their support arrangements.

GCIL is a Disabled People's Organisation with more than 17 years' experience of supporting and developing direct payments systems and, more recently, SDS in and around Glasgow.

GCIL's service will be based in Campbell Street, Hamilton, from where a small team will offer support with:

- information and training on SDS to ensure that service users are able to make an informed choice about the best way to use their funding
- recruiting and managing personal assistants, or engaging service providers
- setting up payroll systems if required understanding the responsibilities involved in employing staff
- meeting council financial monitoring requirements.

GCIL's service is scheduled to start in April 2014 as the new legislation kicks in."

● **Anyone who wishes further info about the various options available should contact their local social work office.**



Nurse returns to ward where she once battled brain tumour

By Euan Duguid

WARD 18 of Hairmyres Hospital will be forever etched into Patricia Anne Murphy's soul.

The building in East Kilbride is where the mum-of-three spent two years battling back from a brain tumour in the 1990s.

The experience brought the fragility of life – and the finality of death – into sharp focus.

Yet a poignant twist of fate has seen the nurse of 30 years return to Ward 18 in recent months – to care for older people in their final weeks and days.

The life experience gone full circle has equipped the Senior Charge Nurse with a heightened sense of devotion – and empathy – for her patients and their families.

"When I was ill, I spent many long nights in this building, plagued by my deepest fears, worrying about my children and husband if I didn't make it," reveals Patricia Anne, 49, from Hamilton.

"I've worked in many areas of nursing in my career and it's only latterly I've been involved in end-of-life care.

"Chance returned me to Ward 18 just as it reopened after refurbishment in July.

"Coming here brought a lot of emotions back from the darkest time in my life. But when you're faced with death, you realise just how important every second is.

"I'm always mindful of what I went through. Hopefully that can ease the experience of patients and their families here."

Having enjoyed good health, Patricia Anne, pictured, began experiencing breathlessness and sudden weight gain in 1994.

After two years of trying various diets and holistic therapies while holding down her nursing job working with young people, she was finally diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Although the tumour was benign, it was having a direct impact on her adrenal system and Patricia Anne's health problems were predicted to get worse.

There were also no guarantees that she'd make it through a vital operation at Glasgow's Southern General hospital.

Patricia Anne spent regular overnight stays in Ward 18, then a specialist medical unit, for tests in the months leading up to surgery. She also convalesced in the building after the procedure.

Since the opening of the new main hospital in 2001, Ward 18 has specialised in caring for older people.

A refurbishment programme completed last summer coincided with Patricia Anne's appointment to manage the ward.

Today, all of Ward 18's patients have complex, round-the-clock care needs.

All are cared for until the end and Patricia Anne, along with her team, is striving to engrain the main principles of the nationwide



Reshaping Care for Older People (RCOP) programme into their daily working practices.

RCOP is looking at ways to support and care for the growing numbers of people aged 65 years and over by providing more care at home, in homely settings and in the community.

Hospital will always be available when required.

"When it is, as in the case of those on Ward 18, emphasis continues to be put on RCOP's main aims – to make positive and independent living a reality.

"When it comes to the final days of someone's life, without exception, they always want fundamental, simple things," explained Patricia Anne.

"Whatever it is, a treasured song or a favourite meal, we always try to make these 'dying wishes' happen.

"Some people might want to take in the fresh air and listen to bird song, for example.

"We can now take their beds onto the veranda here because of the modifications to the ward."

Invariably, though, final wishes are simply to be close to loved ones.

"We have two consultants so all treatment can be administered on Ward 18, no matter how complex the patient's needs are," continued Patricia Anne.

"That means patients aren't moved around the hospital. That's crucial for the family as it allows them to make the most of the time they have

left. It also allows staff to build up a relationship with the patient."

And Patricia knows from personal experience just how important that is.

"Any illness can lead to feelings of desolation," she said.

"I remember after my operation, there were complications that left me with debilitating headaches.

"I was in a low place but there were certain nurses that made the recovery from that bearable.

"It was the wee things that made the difference. The sister came in with a cup of coffee when I was upset one day and just sat with me.

"That's just what I needed at that moment. As a nurse, I've always been especially mindful that we've always got to step back and look and ask 'what's a person asking for?'"

"They maybe just want someone to hold their hand. They maybe just want to talk about the weather.

"It's so important here that we put the person at the centre of everything we do – and provide as much freedom and independence as we can."

NHS Lanarkshire is a key partner in RCOP, which also combines the expertise of North and South Lanarkshire councils, the independent and the third sector.

David Hume, General Manager for NHS Lanarkshire's Older People Directorate, explained: "The partnership has introduced a raft of schemes and programmes to make independent and positive living a reality throughout local communities in Lanarkshire.

"That ethos is extending to the hospital wards, too.

"RCOP is also about continuing a mindset that puts the individual – and their needs – at the centre of care."



Pilot scheme helping elderly stay at home scoops award

By Euan Duguid

AN award-winning community-based care and support team that's meeting the challenges of an ageing population has proven the power of partnership is the key to success.

The Integrated Community Support Team (ICST), which aims to prevent unnecessary hospital or care home admissions and reduce the length of stay in hospital, scooped the Integrated Care for Older People Award at the annual Scottish Health Awards.

Nine out of every 10 people supported by the ICST, a pilot scheme which operates in East Kilbride and Strathaven, have been able to remain in their own home since its launch last year.

And the team say the key to the marked success so far is all down to joined-up working across agencies.

NHS Lanarkshire's Morag Hearty, Project Manager for the ICST, explained: "The ICST has brought together nurses, physiotherapists and hospital discharge rehabilitation staff from NHS Lanarkshire with social workers, home care workers and occupational therapists from South Lanarkshire Council.

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

"We really are drawing on a huge bank of skill, experience and knowledge and channelling that to tailor and co-ordinate support to the individual needs, especially of older people, in homes and the community."

The ICST initiative has been formed through the nationwide, multi-agency Reshaping Care for Older People (RCOP) programme.

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

RCOP is looking at ways to support growing numbers of people aged 65 and over by providing more care and support at home.

Key partners in South Lanarkshire include the council, NHS Lanarkshire, the independent and the third sector.

RCOP partners are also focused on recognising and supporting unpaid carers and the ICST has positively engaged with South Lanarkshire Carers Network to make this a reality.

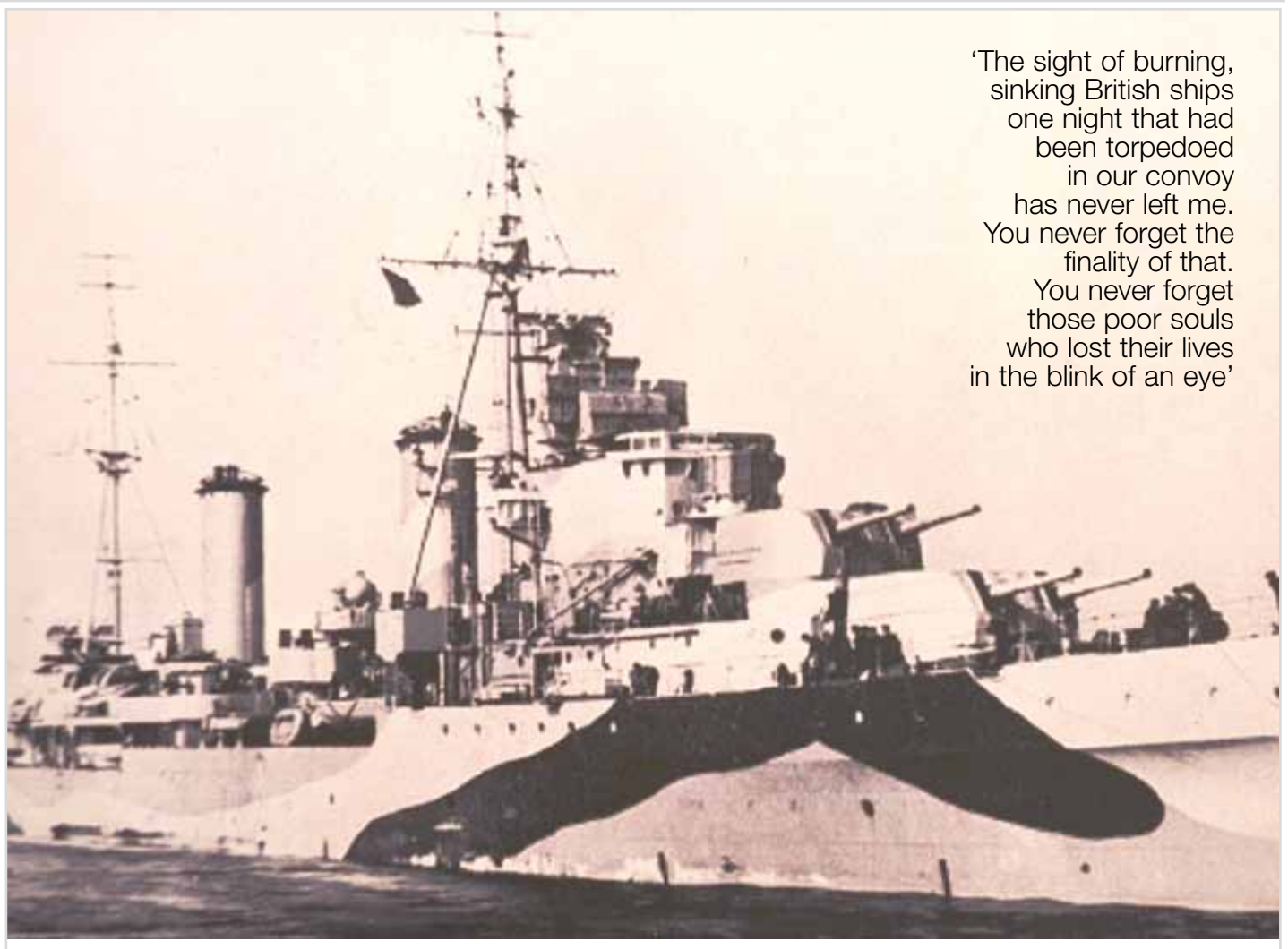
The aim has been to increase their knowledge of carer issues and support services to ensure that unpaid carers are identified and have access to the information they need.

In the first year of ICST, 921 people were referred and around 90 per cent of these – many with complex care needs – were able to stay in their home within 30 days of referral.

Harry Stevenson, South Lanarkshire Council's Executive Director of Social Work Resources, said: "We are fully committed to Reshaping Care for Older People's integrated approach to supporting older people and ensuring South Lanarkshire is great place to live and grow old in.

"This recent accolade is testament to exemplary teamwork across agencies.

"The ICST has set down a very strong foundation stone for the future of community-based care and support."



Alex's ship voyages into U-Boat-infested waters during a highly dangerous WWII mission, above

'The sight of burning, sinking British ships one night that had been torpedoed in our convoy has never left me. You never forget the finality of that. You never forget those poor souls who lost their lives in the blink of an eye'

'I have seen worst biggest battle was

A NEW BEFRIENDING SERVICE IS HELPING TO EASE THE ISOLATION OF PENSIONERS WHO LIVE ON THEIR OWN SUCH AS ALEX BROCK, WHO SAYS IT PROVIDES HIM WITH COMFORT AND SUPPORT. EUAN DUGUID REPORTS

A VETERAN of some of the most tumultuous episodes of the Second World War says fighting loneliness is the greatest challenge of his life.

Now battle-hardened Alex Brock, 89, from East Kilbride, has found solace in a new pilot scheme that places friendship at the forefront of the fight against isolation.

Mr Brock, a Royal Navy sailor whose war-time experiences include narrowly cheating death after his light cruiser HMS Arethusa was hit by a German mine, has joined Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire's (VASLan) new telephone befriending project.

As VASLan launch an appeal for older people living alone to take part in the scheme, great-grandfather Alex says the scheme is proving to be vital boost for him.

"I've seen the very worst of war, from merchant ships being struck by U-boats in the dead of night and cities being relentlessly bombed, to nearly being sunk myself in the English channel, just after D-Day," he explains.

"It was always companionship and friendship that got me through the darkest of hours. I feel the phone scheme has provided me with that very same comfort and support today."

After the war, Alex led an active life, including running a busy shop in Glasgow.

But in the last three years his health has deteriorated.

He adds: "My wife, Helen, died 20 years ago and all of my old mates have passed away. Eye deterioration has also really impacted on my independence.

"Although I get out and have forged new friendships at a local blind club and receive visits from home support and health workers, it can be tough living alone.

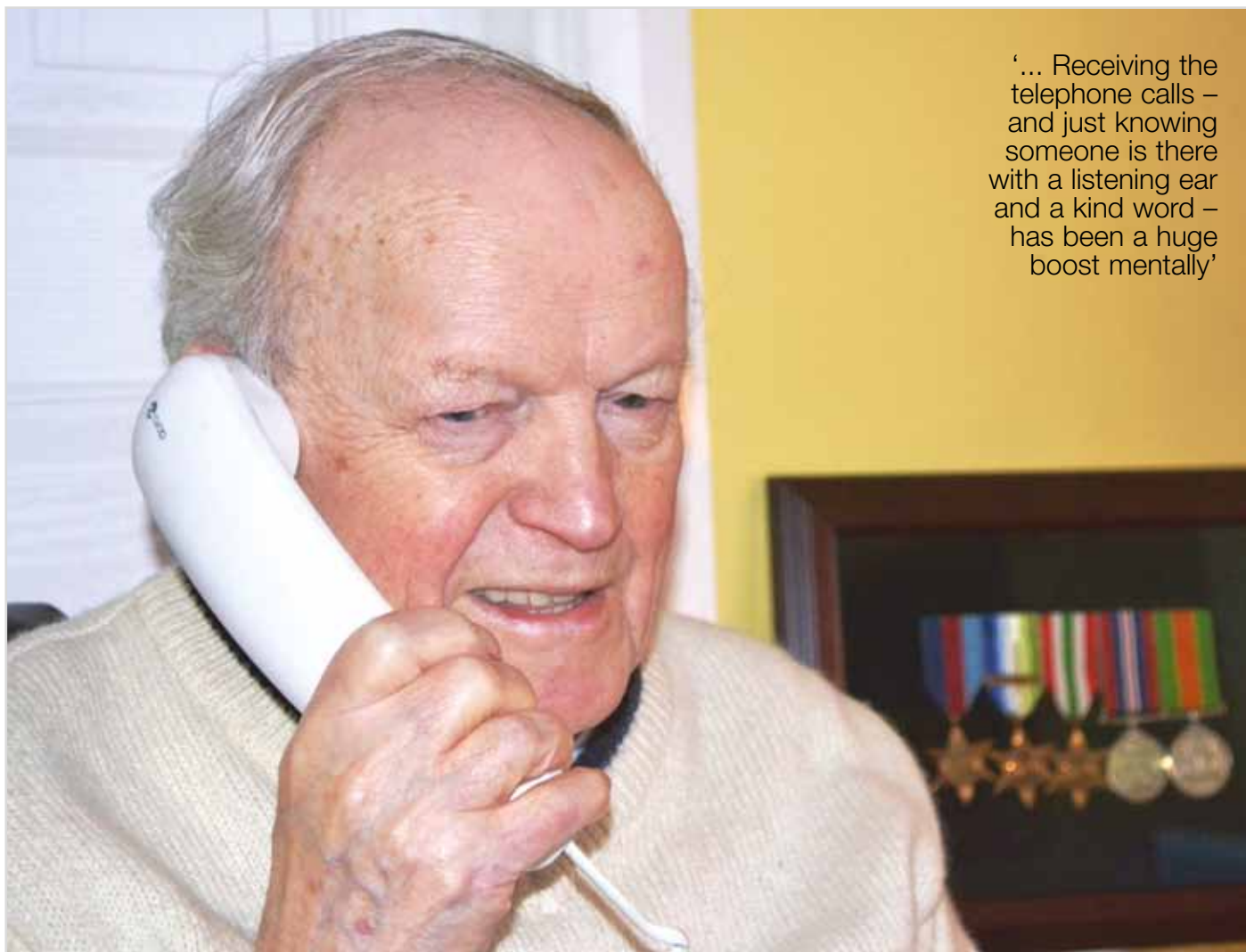
"You can get little worries out of perspective and, before you know it, you're carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders.

"But receiving the telephone calls – and just knowing someone is there with a listening ear and a kind word – has been a huge boost mentally."

VASLan set up the befriending scheme as part of its vital work in the multi-agency Reshaping Care for Older People (RCOP) project.

RCOP is looking at ways to support the growing numbers of people aged 65 and over, focusing on providing more help and support to enable older people to remain at home and stay connected to their local community. The scheme has been rolled out at a crucial time – during the winter months – when older people living alone can be at their most vulnerable and their most isolated.

A team of volunteers, who are matched



'... Receiving the telephone calls – and just knowing someone is there with a listening ear and a kind word – has been a huge boost mentally'

Alex Brock says VASLan's new telephone befriending scheme is proving to be a vital lifeline as he confronts loneliness, which he says is his greatest-ever challenge

of combat but my against loneliness'



with recipients in terms of interests and background, have been trained to talk regularly on the phone to older people. Brian Duffy, Locality officer at VASLan, explains: "One of the main reasons we're doing this is to reduce feelings of isolation. "When our befriender calls, the older person knows there's someone out there who is looking out for them and is there to listen. That can be a huge boost if they don't have a lot of contact with others."

RCOP combines the expertise of key partners in South Lanarkshire, including voluntary sector organisations, such as VASLan with NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council and the independent sector.

The new service is also set to have real practical benefits in partnership working, including other key agencies being able to refer people for extra support.

Brian added: "In a scenario where a

befriending volunteer finds out something is wrong, contact will be made with the person's named contact in the first instance or with statutory agencies.

"It's about reassurance, too." Places are still available for those in need of the service. VASLan staff are especially keen to hear from older people living alone, or from family members or neighbours who have concerns for someone who is.

● Contact the team on 01698 300390.

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY

ALEX Brock's self-effacing demeanour belies a life of derring-do and drama on the high seas.

"I was a stoker in the engine room of the cruiser HMS Arethusa, which was first to bombard German gun batteries at D-Day," says Alex, below.

"King George himself came onboard from Portsmouth just after the assault to see what we'd be doing in the fateful attack.

"We dropped him off at Sword beach, on the captain's barge, to meet the Army top brass."

Days later, however, disaster struck as Arethusa was ferrying injured troops back to Portsmouth.

"A blast shook through the boat. It was as if I'd been picked up and dumped on the floor by a huge hand. We reckon we sailed over a German mine.

"It goes beyond a loud bang – a blast like that reverberates throughout your body and soul.

"It's terrifying. I learned many things in the Navy but I never learned how to swim. I'd thought my time was up as the boat began to tilt.

"The Arethusa remained afloat – but only just. All the English ports were full of other vessels that had been damaged and three tugs towed us all the way up the west coast to Glasgow – with the boat at a 45 degree angle.



"I remember vividly the peculiar sensation of walking on level ground when we got on shore. It took a bit of getting used to again."

As well as close shaves and slapstick moments, Alex also experienced the full destructive horror of war.

"We were protecting convoys running supplies into Malta when it was in the grip of fierce bombing raids by the Luftwaffe and Italian air force.

"The level of sheer destructive force never leaves you."

It was the terror of negotiating the Atlantic's U-boat infested waters – and providing protection to merchant shipping – that made the biggest impact on Alex, however.

"The sight of burning, sinking British ships one night that had been torpedoed in our convoy has never left me.

"You never forget the finality of that. You never forget those poor souls who lost their lives in the blink of an eye.

"The war taught me just how precious every second of life is. It's a lesson that's always stayed with me."



LGBT History Month 2014

Programme of Events - Brochure

1 February 2014

Saltire Thistle - Challenge match versus Hotscots

Hamilton Palace Sports Ground

Saltire Thistle FC are a gay friendly football team based in Glasgow.

Established in 2010, initially they were a group of folk with a common sexuality and interest to regularly play 5-a-side, they now have 40+ loyal members and are still growing. They play nationally in the Gay Football Supporters Network (GFSN) League Division 1 and locally in the Glasgow and District Sunday Football Championship (GDSFC) Division 3.

Come along to enjoy a great game of football for all.

1 – 16 February 2014

Our Story Scotland

Low Parks Museum

An exhibition presenting the life stories and experiences of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community of Scotland. This involves oral history work with all ages, including the older generation. Their stories reveal the tremendous changes that have occurred in the lives of LGBT people during their lifetime and demonstrate how Scotland has and continues to move forward.

4 – 16 February 2014

Lucy Holmes Elliott - The Queer Window Project

East Kilbride Arts Centre

Lucy Holmes-Elliott is a Glasgow based artist and filmmaker. Her most recent work The Queer Window Project, commissioned by Creative Scotland, is a series of fifteen large-scale portrait illustrations and thirty photographs depicting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Come and enjoy this fantastic exhibition celebrating the diversity of Scotland.

7 February 2014

Film Night - 'The kids are alright'

Rutherglen Town Hall

Starring: Annette Bening, Julianne Moore and Mark Ruffalo

Two children conceived by artificial insemination bring their father into their family life in this moving family comedy/drama from writer/director Lisa Cholodenko.

Tickets cost £5 and £3 for concession and can be booked by contacting Rutherglen Town Hall on 0141 613 5700 or online at www.slcbboxoffice.co.uk

22 February 2014

Rainbow 5K Trail Run

Chatelherault Country Park

The Rainbow Trail Run celebrates LGBT History Month and this year's theme of 'sport'. It will take place on the undulating country trails and tarmac paths in the lovely Chatelherault Park. The run, jog or walk, whichever takes your fancy, is suitable for all abilities and if you have never attempted one before, this is will be a great event to join in the fun and experience a sense of achievement amongst friends.

28 February 2014

Horse McDonald in Concert 'Horse comes Home'

Lanark Memorial Hall

Horse grew up in Lanark and returns 'Home' in this one off 'an audience with' performance with her full band. Come and hear the artist described by Q magazine as "One of the finest singers in Britain" whose "voice wraps us up like a great big duvet" - The Scotsman - in a night not to be missed.

Combined with music from her excellent 9th album 'Home', Horse will perform songs from throughout her career.

Tickets cost £17.50 and £15.50 for concession and can be booked by contacting Lanark Memorial Hall on 01555 667 999 or online at www.slcbboxoffice.co.uk

Every Monday throughout February from 6.30 – 7.30pm

Words with Wings

Hamilton Town House Library

Words With Wings: Where art and words collide. A fun and supportive space to build confidence in exploring creative ways of expressing who you are.

This is an opportunity to tell your stories with words, art and music. We provide a platform to encourage and stimulate your creative talents.

Words matter - words can change lives - words connect us all. Let's share our words together!

All welcome. No experience required. This session is aimed at young people between 13 – 18 years of age.

Further details contact AJ: aj@randan.org
www.wordswithwings.me

Every Thursday throughout February from 1.00 – 3.00pm

Words with Wings

Hamilton Town House Library

Words With Wings: Creating a space for voices that are often unheard Share poetry, a word, an idea.

Our 'drop-in' sessions invite you to write a poem, participate in a word game; collaborate on a piece of visual poetry or meet like minded people sharing their stories. Working towards an inclusive community.

We provide a safe environment full of word and wonder to inspire and provoke the writer within.

No booking required. Suitable for all ages.

Further details contact AJ: aj@randan.org
www.wordswithwings.me

Full details of all events relating to LGBT History Month can be found by visiting the events page at www.slleisureandculture.co.uk