

# Carron Valley and District

Community Council Newsletter

Autumn Edition Nov 2015

## CARRON VALLEY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Autumn is finally upon us after a glorious late summer flowering. And perhaps the rest of it has not been quite as bad as it appeared--we have had solar PV panels on the roof for almost 4 years, and April May and September of 2015 were lighter and sunnier than any of the corresponding months of previous years.

Looking forward to 2016, you will find more positive news below about improving broadband connection in the Valley, with a tender for a broadband provider hopefully going out early in the new year. This will, I'm sure, be given a loud hurrah by those residents for whom smoke signals or carrier pigeons might still provide a quicker means of transferring communications. Between now and then there is, of course, Christmas. Are you a Scrooge or a twinkling star? Alas, I tend towards the former, so I don't think it right to wish the usual seasonal greetings just yet.

So you will not be surprised that I was unimpressed, upon entering Dobbie's Garden Centre on October 26, to find my way almost barred by a life size moose with a very mobile jaw, singing 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town'! Hey, ho. Life goes on.

### Community Councillors' Contact Details

*(in digital form please email)*

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**NOTICE:** If you wish to receive your next newsletter by email in digital form please email Dorothy, as above with your details.



# More Children Offered Flu Vaccine

A team of immunisation specialists are hoping to vaccinate around 24,000 Forth Valley primary school aged children against flu by the Christmas break.

The vaccinations will be carried out during school hours with children aged between 5 and 11 years being offered the nasal spray Fluenz. The programme is being delivered in collaboration with local authority education departments.

Fluenz will also be offered to around 8,700 two to five year olds in primary care who will receive the vaccine from their GPs.

The childhood flu immunisation programme is an extension of the existing annual flu vaccination which targets people aged over 65 or those under 65 with chronic illnesses which can make flu much more dangerous. These include people with heart disease, chest complaints such as bronchitis, emphysema or asthma, chronic kidney failure, cystic fibrosis, lowered immunity due to disease or treatment, diabetes or liver problems. Pregnant women and unpaid carers are also eligible for vaccination.

Are you entitled to the flu vaccine? **Get in touch with your local GP Practice.**

# WHAT'S ON

## NOVEMBER DECEMBER

At Stirling's Macrobert Centre some of these events might be for you—

**Fri 13th Nov - Thu 19th Nov - Spectre.** Daniel Craig is back as James Bond when a cryptic message from his past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organisation.

**Thu 19th Nov - National Theatre Live: Of Mice and Men.** The hit Broadway production Of Mice and Men, filmed on stage in New York.

**Thu 13th Dec - English National Opera - The Mikado.** Set in an ever so English 1930s seaside hotel, ENO's dazzlingly inventive staging of The Mikado is shown on the big screen for audiences to enjoy.

**Thursday 17th Dec - Star Wars - A Force Awakens** We couldn't not mention one of the most anticipated films of recent years with the return of Star Wars to our screens for its seventh instalment.

As ever, there is an action packed few months ahead at the Macrobert Centre, visit their website for further information.

# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON STIRLING

This family-friendly event kicks off at 2.00pm from the Corn Exchange on Sunday 16 November with Santa and his family of reindeer leading the parade down King Street to the Thistles Shopping Centre outside Costa Coffee.

Central FM presenters Joe Kilday and Nicky Reid will then host the afternoon event with their fun and festive flair and help from The Singing Kettle, Stageworx, St Modan's High School Choir and the winners of the Xmas Factor on their stage at the bottom of King Street.

Santa's reindeer will have a well-deserved breather, next to Costa Coffee until 3.30pm, so don't forget your camera.

The Christmas lights will be switched on, by The Thistles Shopping Centre competition winner, at 5.00pm at the bottom of King Street.

# BROADBAND UPDATE

A technical appraisal has been carried out to identify options for enabling broadband coverage for all CC residents. The most pragmatic option is a wireless network. Over October / November 2015, Community Broadband Scotland is to clarify with Scottish Government and BT those postcodes which will **not** be covered by the "BT superfast BB roll-out".

These postcodes will form the basis of a tender to put in place a community-wide wireless network. The tender for a preferred provider will be pulled together shortly thereafter with the contract being awarded January / February 2016. Hopefully, there will be funding towards the capital costs of the build from CBS. All going well, 2016 could be the year all the community can get online.

## Broadband open sessions

12 November 1pm – 4pm @ Carron Valley Fishery  
12 November 5.30 – 7.30 @ Howietoun Fisher Museum

Come along and meet members of the Broadband Group to find out more about what is happening, ask questions!



## St. Andrew's Hospice Sportive

"oan yer bike"

**Sunday 17th April 2016**

St. Andrews Hospice in Lanarkshire, like Strathcarron in our own neighbourhood, provides end of life care for patients suffering from cancer and other life-limiting conditions. To raise funds, the Hospice is running a cycle road race-Sportive-on Sunday April 17, 2016, some of which will pass along the B818. Head of fundraising John Brady writes--

"The event will start very early in the morning when many people will still be in bed. We recognise that it may have an impact for a few hours: we hope that you will join us by coming out to support the cyclists as they pass by, or even organise an event with family, friends and neighbours to raise funds for the Hospice.

We recognise that times are tough and challenging for many. The Hospice needs £65,000 each week to maintain vital care services. This equates to £386 per hour and if you can make a few changes to your normal routine for a few hours that day it will mean so much to us and the patients we care for. Statistics show that 1 in 3 of us will be touched by cancer in our lives, so it's important that we can continue to care, maintain and develop our services for those who need us. We do hope that you understand why we ask you to support us in this very important initiative."

The Sportive will begin around 7am and it's expected that the B818 will be closed to traffic until about 10.15. Blue light emergencies will of course be given passage.

### Great news for Carron Valley...

Carron Valley could benefit from a new five year European funding programme worth £2.8 million. This could help to develop the areas local business and employment, heritage, tourism and leisure, community services and facilities.

The new Kelvin Valley & Falkirk LEADER 2014-2020 programme is being launched at the end of October and covers rural areas within Falkirk, East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire. Twenty four projects across the Falkirk Council area secured £435,650 during the last five year programme!

## Tough Decisions for Stirling Council

Stirling Council has admitted that tough decisions need to be made ahead of the upcoming publication of its draft budget. If the council does nothing by 2020/21 they face a funding shortfall of £25m. The draft budget gives ideas of what the council could do to transform the way it operates. A series of community consultations will be held to discuss these. From 7-9pm on Thursday 12th November at Bannockburn High School you can meet representatives from the council and have your say in shaping the future plans. The draft budget can be viewed on the Stirling Council website and is available at all local libraries.

## INEOS Upstream

Tom Pickering from INEOS attended the recent Community Council meeting to give some background on the company: 1300 employees at Grangemouth, accounting for 4% of Scotland's GDP. He explained that the gas for the plant that has historically come from the North Sea has dropped by 60% and that new sources of methane were required in order for the plant to run at capacity.

He was asked about the exact area covered by the licences INEOS holds and agreed to supply a detailed map. Information is also available on their websites: [www.ineosupstream.com](http://www.ineosupstream.com), [shale.information@ineos.com](mailto:shale.information@ineos.com).

He said that images of tap water being set alight in the US were particular to the natural geology of those areas and would not occur here.

Likewise the earthquake in Lancashire happened because Quadrilla did not do 3D imaging before carrying out the frack.

He stressed that a safety culture was very important at INEOS.

CV residents are encouraged to find out for themselves about the pros and cons of fracking as this is an important issue for all of Scotland to consider.



## REPORT

**Drug dealing:** No reports of drug dealing within the CV area. One male was cautioned and charged with being found in possession of a small amount of cannabis and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Antisocial behaviour:** Three males were traced fishing without a permit at CV fisheries and have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Enquiries are ongoing into a bale of hay that went on fire at Foot O'Green Farm to establish whether it was a criminal act. There have been several reports of fire having been lit on the far side of North Third Reservoir, possibly by wild campers. The Fire service were contacted regarding these calls.

**Violent crime:** No crimes of a violent nature reported.

If you have any issues or concerns about safety in your area, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me at [alison.ferry@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alison.ferry@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or [StirlingWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:StirlingWestCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

The project to renovate the Howietown Fishery Museum will not be going ahead. In addition the space will no longer be available for community use after 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The VRG AGM will be the last community event at the Fishery Museum on 12<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm. CC and VRG have identified two alternative meeting places in the short term – Carron Valley Fishery room and the school at Fairhill Road. The December CC meeting will be at the Fairhill Road school, 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. VRG is currently investigating options for an alternative long term site.

## Scotland's Community Heritage Conference

14th/15th November 2015  
Atoll Palace Hotel, Pitlochry

This year's conference has something for everyone – from large landscape projects to sculptures celebrating local heritage, from burial spaces to 3D digital recording! The conference will be held at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry (Perth and Kinross) and as ever, the emphasis is on community groups showcasing their work to research, record and promote heritage sites throughout Scotland.

This year confirmed contributors include:

- Access Archaeology Group (North Uist)
- Collie Mackenzie Sculpture Group (Skye)
- Friends of Glasgow Necropolis
- Inchinnan Historical Group
- Bennachie Landscapes Project

Their breakout training workshops make the conference unique in Scotland, and this year they have organised three training workshops aimed at helping you develop and deliver your heritage project.

- Treasure Trove - overview of the process and identifying archaeological objects
- Resourcing Scotland's Heritage (Funding workshop)
- Scotland's Urban Past - Recording Urban Landscapes

*For further information and to book - Please get in touch with Cara or Eve at [chescot@gmail.com](mailto:chescot@gmail.com) or call them on 03000129878 if you have any questions.*

### Councillor Contacts

#### Surgery Details

Cllr Christine Simpson  
Nov 17th 2015 Cambusbarron  
Community Centre 6.30pm



Cllr Christine Simpson  
01786 443284

Cllr Neil Bennie  
Dec 7th 2015 Central Library Basement 6.45pm



Cllr Neil Bennie  
01786 443284

Cllr Scott Farmer  
November 11th 2015 Stirling High School 6.30pm



Cllr Scott Farmer  
01786 443284

Are you a budding photographer in the valley? Photos always greatly received!



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Earlsburn Community Fund

# Walks in the Valley.

Meikle Bin

Parking available off the B818, at the end of the Carron Valley Reservoir, opposite the entrance to Todholes Farm, under a Forestry Commission sign for Carron Valley.

- 1) Head up the track behind a barrier at the back of the car park. Walk for around a mile and ignore tracks spurring off to the right. Cross a concrete bridge over the River Carron.
- 2) Just after the bridge over the River Carron, turn right at a junction of tracks. Slightly less than half a mile further on avoid a track turning right, then at a junction turn right to continue through trees.
- 3) After a long, straight section, avoid turning left and continue ahead. The track continues right then swings round to the left. Ignore a muddy path going up into trees to the left and continue round to a signpost from where you follow a path going up to the left.
- 4) The path soon leaves the trees and follows open hillside up the broad, grassy northwest ridge of Meikle Bin.
- 5) This last part is surprisingly long but the views do open out over the Campsies. To the right, just before reaching the trig point, are the remains of a Royal Navy Fairey Firefly aircraft which crashed in 1950.
- 6) At the top you have the option of heading in the same direction and descending through trees to make the walk more of a loop but it is equally enjoyable to return to the start by the same route.

Distance - 6 miles  
Time - 2-3 hours

A moderate, enjoyable walk - however at this time of year, be aware of changeable weather conditions



### Carron Valley Heritage Group's Website

Your community council are sharing Carron Valley Heritage Groups website to post notices and copies of all newsletters.

This newsletter is the 22nd edition following the community consultation back in 2009. For copies of all previous editions please visit

[www.carronvalleyheritage.org.uk](http://www.carronvalleyheritage.org.uk)

All 22 copies can be found under the CVCC newsletters tab.