

ALMOST THERE!

PLANNING COMMITTEE CONSENTS NEILSTON COMMUNITY WINDFARM

If anyone were to tell you that Neilston folk would have millions of pounds to spend on their own town, in their own way, you might figure they'd taken leave of their senses. It is hard to believe, because the numbers are so big and towns don't win the Lottery. But we're well on the way to make that happen.

On the 9th February, East Renfrewshire Council Planning Committee passed a proposal for the 4 turbine Neilston Community Windfarm on the site of the old Drumgrain tip above the Commore Dam (see pages 4 & 5). Thus the first windfarm in Scotland to be developed by a commercial company and a community in a truly joint venture comes much closer to being realised.

The significance of this development for Neilston cannot be overstated. For the first time, our community will have access to a long-term source of finance that is totally independent of control by the Council or other funders.

Wind farms are a topic of some debate, but the fact is they're (literally) part of the landscape both here and abroad, and increasingly, go ahead communities are wanting a bigger share of the money being made by the big developers. 'Community benefit' payments have been the way in which local people have been 'rewarded' for having wind farms nearby; but if you take the £130k per annum paid in community benefit to the whole of East Renfrewshire for having the 140+ turbines at Whitelee on the horizon, and compare that to the millions of pounds to be generated for Neilston itself over a 25 year



period from our proposal, it's hard to see why anyone would have a problem.

This won't mean free electricity – the power will be fed into the grid, but the income from the energy sold will go into projects that benefit us all.

WHAT MIGHT THOSE PROJECTS BE?

And will groups not all be fighting each other for a share of the cash? (Could put a new slant on the Cattle Show tug-o-war).

That's where Neilston is also leading the way. We have our Town Charter, a document independent from the windfarm process, which lists 40+ projects, identified by local people, which would make Neilston a better place.

We are now at the stage of setting priorities and agreeing arrangements for the delivery of Charter projects. It is vital that this conversation is shared by as many people as possible.

That's where the Town Team comes in. Look out for news of its next meeting, or get in touch on 0141 561 1201.

WHEN WILL ALL THIS HAPPEN?

All being well, the turbines should be in place by end 2012. But we're not quite there yet. See pages 4 & 5.

View from Kingston Road

OUR NEW
CHAIR
PG 2

JOIN THE
NEILSTON
CONVERSATION
PG 3

MEET THE
'BANK
MANAGER'
PG 6

OUR DEAR
GREEN PLACE -
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WHO'S ON
BOARD?
PG 10

POWERDOWN'S
POWERFUL
LEGACY
PG 11-12

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the spring edition of The Space newsletter. Spring is Nature's annual new start; new life is springing up all around us. Finally, the long-awaited season change is with us and it is all change at NDT as well. A new look Bank, new staff members, a new chairman and, in the not too distant future, a new wind farm.

Firstly, I would like to document my thanks to my predecessor as NDT chair, Alan Walker. Alan's sterling tenure has seen NDT grow to a strong community organisation and charity that's leading and delivering on some ground breaking projects that are exemplars for community organisations across Scotland; a tenure that has overseen the forming of NDT as a charitable trust, securing the Bank in one of the first Community Right to Buy successes in Scotland, the Neilston Live festival and cultural development work, the Renaissance Town initiative, the Powerdown project, our volunteer programme, Lottery and other funding to develop the Bank, and a new windfarm collaboration, unique in Scotland! Of course all of this could only have been achieved by the hard work of NDT's board members and volunteers and the support of the community as well - a big vote of thanks to you all!

SO HOW DO WE FOLLOW THAT?

Well, that's down to you! NDT's purpose is to champion, facilitate, support and drive the regeneration of Neilston. From our humble beginnings in 2004, as Neilston: Space to Live, we have built a strong local membership and an ambitious programme of projects. This year we are going back to our roots with a renewed focus on community involvement. The newly refurbished Bank will be opening its doors this summer. We have many exciting things planned for it, but we also want to hear your thoughts and ideas. Better than that, we want you to be involved. So why not become a member of NDT, join the fun and get things done!

Andrew Jones, Chair



THE PATH TO RENAISSANCE



Small beginnings, perhaps, but the new path through the Kingston Playing Fields created by ERC's access team, directly reflects the Town Charter's ambition for better connections within the village and more attention to safe and pleasant pedestrian movement.

The path links into Double Hedges Road, passes the play area and emerges on Kingston Road; a much safer and shorter route to school and the station for many people. The response has been favourable - look out for more news of bigger things to come.

join the neilston conversation!



What was it like to be over 60, in Neilston, a hundred years ago? There are plenty of statistics out there, about life expectancy, health and illness, wealth and poverty, mansions and slums, but what was it actually like to live in those times, so different from now? What we do know is that whatever little official provision there might have been for health and welfare, it was handed down from on high; the rest was provided by people for each other.

Thankfully, we live now in very different times where so much has improved; however, if we no longer have to contend with slum housing, there are other challenges, such as isolation, chronic health conditions, distance from services, which need solutions tailored to person and situation. The government knows that this can't be dealt with solely by official measures, although there is no substitute for a properly resourced health service.

As part of our ambition to ensure that the Trust and the Bank is put at the service of all, NDT approached our Community Health and Care Partnership. We agreed that with the current pressure on health and care services, it's important to find out how best to use the resources available.

So what we want to do is to catch a sense of what matters to people, in Neilston, NOW. We figure good health, good neighbours, family, support and security will feature... no prizes for working that out. It's how those good things are supported and enabled that needs revisiting. They don't just happen. Small things can make a big difference. Having just gone through the census process, we can promise NO tick-box forms. It's not just about services and care, either. We want to hear what makes your life good, and find out what the Trust might provide to enrich the mix of facilities available. So it's a conversation.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

This project is being run by Neilston Development Trust (NDT) in association with East Renfrewshire Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) and supported by the Voluntary Action Fund. The work NDT does in community led regeneration fits with the CHCP's official role in providing health and social care services at a local level. This is why we are working together to look at both the positives and negatives of life in Neilston, giving us invaluable information on the general health, wellbeing and needs of our residents to help inform what work we do in the future.

NDT Volunteer Manager, Anne Macdonald describes the project:

Trained volunteers from Neilston will be carrying out the conversation. They will come to visit you in pairs and are completely impartial - they just want to hear your views and it will only take 1 hour of your time.

- what life in general is like in Neilston
- how people feel about the community ties in the village
- what people feel about the services and amenities that are available and what is good and bad about them
- what kind of developments in the village would be beneficial to the health and wellbeing of the community

CONFIDENTIALITY IS GUARANTEED

We hope that this will be the first of many conversations we have across all sectors of the community in Neilston. This can then be used by NDT and the CHCP to help us understand the needs of the people of Neilston so that we can plan future services and activities that really make a difference to the community.

We will give participants a copy of the report as a thank you for taking part, and copies will be sent out throughout the village, including in the local library.

We would like to hear from anyone in the 60 and over age group who might be interested in joining in the Conversation.

MEET THE NEILSTON CONVERSATIONALISTS!

The mark of a good conversationalist is that he or she doesn't do all the talking. NDT has recruited a team of local residents with different backgrounds and skills who will work in pairs and visit participants in their homes or another venue to suit, with the emphasis on getting the chat going and then hearing what YOU have to say. Thanks to all the team, who have already been meeting to prepare for the project.



1. Anne McDonald 2. Tom Sanderson 3. Sue Hayes
4. Linda Fraser 5. Joyce Wallace 6. Ian Fraser
7. Linda McLaughlin 8. Fiona Spearey 9. Matt Marshall

interested? **like more information?**

Contact: Anne Macdonald,
Neilston Development Trust Volunteer Manager
Tel: 0141 561 1201 (office) or 0141 881 4946
Email: anne.macdonald@neilstontrust.co.uk

The Old Bank, 84 Main Street, Neilston



East Renfrewshire Council's Planning Committee granted planning consent for the Neilston Community Wind Farm on 9th February, subject to signing a planning agreement to ensure that the wind farm, when operational, will not impact on anyone's television reception.

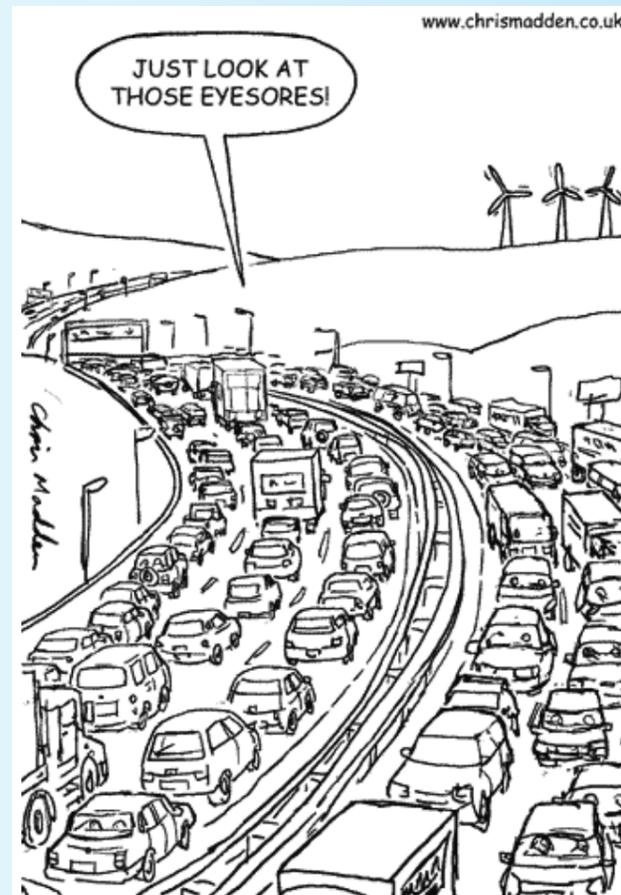
The planning agreement should be signed in the coming weeks, at which point financial arrangements can be finalised prior to ordering the wind turbines. It is expected that the wind farm will be fully operational in late 2012. You may have seen articles recently in the media about a group of Uplawmoor residents who are threatening to petition the courts for a judicial review of East Renfrewshire Council's ('ERC') approval of the planning application. This has led to a great degree of misinformation about the wind farm and so to set the record straight, we have decided to clarify the following:

CONSULTATION

A leaflet was delivered to every residence in Neilston and Uplawmoor in August 2009, with individual letters to outlying households advertising two days of public exhibitions about the wind farm. As many Uplawmoor residents maintained they did not receive this publicity, a public meeting in Uplawmoor was arranged by Uplawmoor Community Council in October 2010, where NDT and our development partners presented. Over 100 Uplawmoor residents attended that meeting, so whilst it is unfortunate that some Uplawmoor residents continue to believe they were not consulted, this was categorically not the case. After the public meeting NDT wrote to UCC offering to discuss ways of going forward and mending neighbourly relations. We look forward to a response.

VISUAL IMPACT ON UPLAWMOOR

It has been suggested that the proposed turbines will have an enormous visual impact, giving rise to a reduction in the quality of life and a loss of property value in Uplawmoor. Whilst property values are not material planning considerations and it is unclear what constitutes 'quality of life', we can



Chris Madden, with permission

however state categorically that the suggested visual impact on Uplawmoor has been greatly exaggerated by a small group of objectors and we have provided a photomontage to demonstrate this. These images were shown to the public meeting in Uplawmoor.

Windfarm view from Pollick Avenue, Uplawmoor (follow the arrows)



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

We have also been accused of not assessing the environmental impacts of the wind farm prior to submitting a planning application. However, again to set the record straight, the application was supported by a substantial and very comprehensive environmental report that assessed the following:

- Landscape, Visual and Cumulative Impact (out to 10km for landscape and 15km for Cumulative);
- Non Avian Ecology (Great Crested Newts, Badgers, Water Voles, Otters, Bats, Vegetation and habitat);
- Ornithology (small birds, raptors and wildfowl),
- Predicted Wind Farm Noise including background noise measurements;
- Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology;
- Shadow Flicker and Telecommunication Impacts;
- Aviation Impact;
- Traffic and Transport Assessment; and
- Socio Economic Impacts.

Without these comprehensive assessments, East Renfrewshire Council would not have granted planning consent. However this work has been wholly dismissed by the small group who are unhappy with the planning authority's decision.

THREATENED JUDICIAL REVIEW

Some residents claim the planning consent may be invalid because the environmental assessment should have been presented as a formal 'Environmental Impact Assessment' instead of an 'Environmental Report' and are threatening to take ERC to court over their decision to grant consent. Their argument centres on the 'Screening Opinion' issued by ERC in early 2009 where ERC provided a fully reasoned opinion as to why a formal Environmental Impact Assessment' was not required when assessed against the criteria as set out in planning regulations. At the time, ERC had extensive knowledge and information at their disposal to access the environmental sensitivity of a site which is a 'former landfill tip located between two electricity pylons'. The ERC opinion did not say environmental assessment work was not required,

but only that a formal EIA was not. NDT and our partners Carbon Free have obtained our own QC's opinion which states that a judicial review is unlikely indeed to succeed. So while it is unfortunate that some residents in Uplawmoor continue to express their grievances, we are advised, in robust terms, that their unhappiness is unlikely to impact the wind farm. We will keep you up to date with these arrangements in the coming months.

WHAT ELSE TO KNOW?

NCW is a joint venture with a specialist windfarm development company.

- NDT will borrow commercially to finance its investment.
- NDT will invest in 49.9% of the project. 49.9% of the income will come to Neilston over the 25 year projected life of the turbines.
- Funds raised will contribute to a Common Good Fund for community regeneration projects, set within the context of Neilston Charter.
- The wider national context reveals an urgent need for energy alternatives, and dwindling resources for communities in a time of public sector cutbacks.



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The Brisbane family from Neilston are right behind our windfarm: George, Licia, Ryan and Meghan say....

“We think wind farms are not only environmentally friendly but they also add to the beauty of the landscape. We think it's the best way of using an abundant natural resource. Neilston has plenty of it, as we know to our cost on a cold winter's day!”

BANKING ON NEILSTON

You can't have failed to notice; progress is being made. Thanks to neighbouring residents for their patience. Severe weather and discovery of some asbestos resulted in a slower start than we had hoped, but the pace is increasing now. Estimated completion date is late summer. We think you'll be amazed at the transformation; difficult for those of us who have been so close to the long struggle to buy the building, run it and fund it, to believe that in a few short months we'll be opening the doors of a gleaming, modern - and warm! - facility.

Meanwhile, on with business. The Trust operation is being conducted from portacabins at the rear of the building. Same telephone number; 0141 561 1201 and Linda Macdonald has been at her desk from April 1st (no joke!). Leave a message if she's out. (Meet Linda on page 7).

You'll be hearing a lot more in the next issue about the plans for Bank opening and the kinds of things that will be on offer. Meanwhile, why not chip in your ideas for services and activities that would make the Bank a fantastic local resource for everyone?

The title of our programme is Banking on Neilston. You only get out of a bank what you put into it (with interest, if you're lucky). Investment comes in many shapes - we're not asking for money (although a few spare £K would always help!), but give it a thought, while you're hanging out the washing or sitting on the train - how could this fantastic new facility add value to your life?



Work in progress

THE BANK: OUR FUNDERS



BIG LOTTERY GROWING COMMUNITY ASSETS
The Growing Community Assets investment area was developed by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) to enable communities in Scotland to have more control and influence over their future development through owning and developing local assets. A new GCA funding round opened in June 2010.
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_growing_community_assets



LEADER
A European fund for economic and community development projects that fall within rural areas, supporting small-scale, community driven projects that are pilot and innovative in nature. www.eastrenfrewshireleader.co.uk



WIDER ROLE FUND
Scottish Government's fund to enable registered social landlords to engage in wider community development initiatives. Barrhead Housing Association has applied and secured this funding on our behalf (subject to formal offer post tender).



CARES
The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme is another Scottish Government fund to encourage communities to develop renewable energy installations on their properties and stimulate the growth of revenue-generating community-owned renewables.
www.communityenergyscotland.org.uk/cares.asp



CLIMATE CHALLENGE FUND
The CCF is a Scottish Government initiative to help communities make their contribution to fighting climate change. (Programme currently closed)
www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccf.asp

The Clothworkers' Foundation

CLOTHWORKERS' FOUNDATION
The Clothworkers' Foundation aims through its funding to improve the quality of life, particularly for people and communities facing disadvantage.
www.clothworkers.co.uk



ROBERTSON TRUST
The Trust aims to identify and support charities, large and small, which can demonstrate that they can deliver measurable outcomes on behalf of the individuals, groups and communities they seek to serve. www.therobertsontrust.org.uk



CHCP
East Renfrewshire's Community Health and Care Partnership is supporting the Bank project to enable the delivery of local based services in the Bank that enhance and support the CHCP mission.
www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/erchcp.htm



WHITELEE WINDFARM FUND
A fund established with the community benefits payments from the Whitelee Windfarm. Contact Sharon McMurtire, East Renfrewshire Council at sharon.McMurtrie@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk



GANNOCHY TRUST
Founded in 1937 by Arthur Kinmond Bell, for charitable and public purposes as a direct result of his family's successful distilling business. Donations range from major national flagship projects to smaller, but nonetheless important, local community projects.
www.gannochytrust.org.uk

THE BANK MANAGER WILL SEE YOU NOW!



Linda Macdonald topped a fine list of over 60 candidates for the post of Bank Centre Development Manager. (The post is supported by the 3 year funding package for the Bank).

You'll hear plenty more from Linda herself soon, but her background is in community and arts work, with a major achievement being the development of the Hidden Gardens at Tramway (adjacent to Pollokshields East station - if you haven't been there go today!). More recently she ran a major arts facility in Dublin. The combination of community based development work and facility management is a winner for us. Linda says,

'It's great to be back in Scotland and I'm really excited at what we can do together in Neilston.'

WELL-KENT FACES

Along with Linda, the people you're most likely to meet from day to day :

Pauline Gallacher and Laura Carswell (board members) working on a voluntary basis and leading on various projects. Meet them on page 10.



ANNEMACDONALD, VOLUNTEER MANAGER: "I have lived in Neilston for 20 years and for the last 5 years have been involved in the Volunteer Development Programme at NDT, both as a staff member and as a volunteer myself. The refurbishment of the Bank will offer many new volunteering opportunities for Neilston folk".



GILLIAN MCKINLAY, TRUST ADMIN: Employed part-time on Trust admin. She lives in the village and has two children at primary school. (She also runs her own 'Sew Crafty' group - recommended!)

BANKING OUR (CARBON) SAVINGS



Solar panels on the Bank roof will provide much of our hot water - and not just when the sun is out!

Hidden at the back of the building is the former strong room. Now, instead of people's savings being stashed away there, we'll be making our carbon savings with a new wood pellet boiler.

With solar panels on the roof, massive amounts of insulation and highly efficient light fittings throughout the building, we

figure this will be one of the greenest community buildings on the planet.

And all this while retaining a fine building - the most sustainable move of all. You'll hear much more about all this when we open the building in the autumn.

Barrhead Housing Association is a locally based locally controlled and accountable organisation providing rented housing throughout East Renfrewshire. With over 870 properties in management and nearly 200 factoring owners receiving a local service, we remain committed to delivering quality professional services to our residents and our communities.

We are committed to the development of Neilston and the Neilston Development Trust through our community regeneration activities. In tough economic times, we will continue to support locally based voluntary organisations that put local services at the heart of what we do.

We have been active participants of the community led Neilston renaissance charter and continue to support the Neilston Development Trust.



Barrhead Housing Association Limited

60/70 Main Street, Barrhead G78 1SB
T. 0141 881 0638
E. enquiries@barrheadha.org
www.barrheadha.org

COWDEN HALL COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROJECT

Mention of "Cowden Hall" arouses in many a passionate reflection on, and sometimes a wistful sadness for, childhood times and a way of life, cherished and long gone. Most often, talk is of its beauty and grandeur. Many of the details and facts of this past are, sadly, lost with time. Others are waiting to be told and new ones are being made at this very moment.



Beyond recent personal accounts and a very few images from the past, we know little of the community of Neilston's relationship with the Cowden Hall Estate, and its wishes, dreams and thoughts for its future.

We know that the site is cherished, at least in memory, but is falling into disrepair. We also know the site is a unique place on account of its cultural history and that it offers great potential as an outdoors facility, woodland and natural habitat with local cultural asset which spans generations.

Cowden Hall is identified within the Neilston Charter as a latent asset, in terms of heritage and natural environment (see Section 9; p47. at [www.neilstontrust.co.uk/Neilston Town Charter.pdf](http://www.neilstontrust.co.uk/Neilston_Town_Charter.pdf)).

The NDT Cowden Hall Community Research Project, launched in September 2010, has sought to take forward these aspirations for Cowden Hall by developing a better understanding of its value to the community. Our aim has been to find out more about who uses it now and whether there are lessons from its past that can help us think about its future. NDT were joined in delivering this project by a team of 8 volunteers and many others who helped develop and complete the surveys and support work with school children.

The project has had a great response from the community, with a total of 216 surveys being completed, by adults and young people from organisations and schools and by visitors at the Estate. The primary 7s and staff of Neilston PS and St Thomas's have taken the project to heart and spent time with some of the village elders, inspired by their memories and stories of Cowden Hall and using these to imagine new futures.

The information gathered has allowed us to build a profile of those that use the site and learn about the patterns and purpose of their visits as well as their views on its future. And just as important, we have been able to build a profile of those that don't use the site and the reasons why not, as well as what changes, if any, would make them more likely to visit.

We have also learned that whilst Cowden Hall mattered greatly to the community in the past, the village's young people have come to enjoy its beauty, many for the first time, realise its value and care about its future.



The Cowden Hall Community Research Project aims to consider how Cowden Hall might flourish again alongside the community of Neilston, and support wider interests in promoting health and wellbeing through increased access to the outdoors. The story of the Cowden Hall Community Research Project can be seen at www.cowdenhall.org.uk.

NDT would like to extend a special thanks to all who gave generously of their time to make this project possible, and in particular, the Murdochs for access to the site, and Barrhead and Neilston Historical Association for all their support.

Neilston was one of 5 communities taking part in the *People and Nature: Learning by Doing* supported by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). A copy of the research summary is available by request and the full report can be found on www.cowdenhall.org.uk. If you are interested in taking part in the follow up stages to this research, or finding out more, or have any images and memorabilia to share, we would love to hear from you.

Contact Laura Carswell on 0797 417 1830 or email laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk.



TAKING 'PRIDE' IN NEILSTON: CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS (1910-2010)

The "Centenary Conference", November 6th 2010 organised by the Barrhead and Neilston Historical Association (BANHA), marked the centenary of the publication of Dr Pride's History of Neilston Parish. The conference brought together those involved in recent archaeological and historical research into the people, the buildings, the industries and activities that have shaped Neilston and the surrounding countryside. It included a talk on the designed landscape of Cowden Hall by John West. NDT displayed images associated with Cowden Hall as part of the Conference exhibition in support of the Cowdenhall Community Research Project.

The exhibition included images by local artists and photographers inspired by the Estate. Photographers Matt Marshall, Davey McLaughlin and Roddy Robertson displayed images which capture the site's natural beauty over the seasons as well as the remnants of its historic past. Peter Finnigan's painting was borne out of his desire to recreate the grandeur, majesty and beauty of the Estate, from the scant records and the memories of the village's oldest citizens.

Peter Finnigan's painting of Old Neilston



Ruins today, by Matt Marshall



Enjoying the produce - Powerdown/Neilston LIVE! picnic

Back o' the Bank Garden last summer - roll on next year, we'll be planting again

BACK OF THE BANK GARDENING CLUB

The BOB Gardening club has been meeting 11-1pm every 3rd week of the month since August 2010. We have about fourteen members and are supported by George Rowan, our volunteer gardener. Amongst our activities, we have visited Green Bank Gardens and the Hidden Gardens. We have also made bird boxes and planted out tulips and daffodils, all blooming as we speak. In preparation for the spring, we have been learning about chitting potatoes, bringing on our sweet peas and composting. Thanks to Go Greener, who have donated early potatoes and grow bags to help us along. The club is open to all to come along and enjoy, meet new friends and learn new skills. Once the Bank is reopened, we hope that the Club can meet on Saturdays and attract new members, including all of those who have expressed an interest.

If you'd like to find out more contact Laura Carswell on 0797 417 1830 or email laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk

NEILSTON LIVE! AUGUST'S FESTIVAL OF LIFE & CULTURE

This is the 7th year of the Neilston Live Festival. There is so much going on this year for Trust volunteers with the refurbishment at the Bank and its opening, scheduled for autumn, that we will only manage a small programme (Crofthead Concerts and perhaps the Strawberry Tea Dance). We have decided to devote our energies into planning for 2012. Are you interested in taking part in planning and supporting a programme for

then? Have you any ideas for activities and events that would interest others and be supported by the community? Or do you want to hear others' thoughts and think how you might be able to help? I would love to hear from as many people as possible so we can make our first Festival in the new Bank something not to miss. **Get in touch with Laura at 0797 417 1830 or email laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk**



NEILSTON LIVE

WWW.CROFHEADCONCERTS.CO.UK

CROFHEAD CONCERTS

The last Crofthead Concert of the 2010/11 season with the Wiyos happened on 26th March. We are looking forward to a new season, beginning in August with the Hot Seats, who will be appearing at the Crofthead Hall as part of the Neilston Live festival. We have some other acts in mind but we would like to hear your views on who should be appearing in Neilston.

Our budget is small, our venue is intimate so who would cause a splash and present a good acoustic show.

CONTACT ALLAN AT ADMIN@CROFHEADCONCERTS.CO.UK TO PASS ON YOUR THOUGHTS

neilston **LIVE!**
Neilston Life and Culture



TRUST MATTERS

As our new chair Andrew writes in his first 'letter from the chair', NDT is changing.

As our operation gets more complex and we expand the range and size of our projects, so we need to grow the organisation and its management arrangements. That means creating and maintaining a staff team to carry out the day to day functions of the Trust, freeing up the core volunteer team to be involved on a more realistic basis, growing the Board's capacity to be effective managers and charitable trustees, and looking to

the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation. If all this sounds as if we're about to morph into IBM, fear not; our cheerful volunteers will still be on the case, just looking even more cheerful! It's all part of a development process that will serve us well, going forward, to deliver the marvellous opportunities that are lying out there for Neilston.

Time for some introductions. We hope you spot some faces you recognise. If you don't, perhaps it's time to get involved!

MEET THE BOARD*



ANDREW JONES, CHAIR: Andrew became Chairman of NDT this year after serving on the Board for nearly three years. Andrew lives with his wife Sian and 1 year old daughter Magdalena. Andrew runs his own consultancy business from home but also manages to find time to be active with Neilston Church, NDT and as a Junior Fencing Coach.



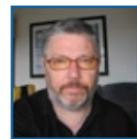
ALAN WALKER (VICE CHAIR): Served as Chair of Space to Live and then of NDT from 2004-2011. Coming from a well-kent local family (links to bowling club, primary school, pipe band to name but a few), Alan is particularly keen on renewable energy of all kinds, and on helping communities to benefit from these developments.



LYNN NAVEN, SECRETARY: Lynn has lived in the village for 25 years and reared her family here. When she's not working in Public Health research and writing minutes for NDT, she's a big Zumba fan.



IAN FRASER: retired to Neilston in 2008, is a Church of Scotland minister, married to Linda and is very pleased to be on the Board. He was previously involved in credit unions, community enterprises and supports any organisation that gives local people more control over their lives.



ALLAN MCDUGALL: has lived in the village since he got married. He is a musician and organises the Crofthead Concerts. He is also a keen bowler.



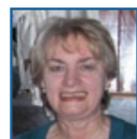
CLAIRE BOYD has many interests and involvements, from community council to chair of Barrhead Housing association.



COLIN MELROSE Neilston born and bred, Colin's interests are many, from curling to Gaelic, from the Cattle Show committee to traditional music. He is also a member of the Community Council.



LORNA GRAY works for the NHS. By far the youngest member of the team (she seems not to mind) Lorna has been co-opted to assist with our emerging involvement in health and care issues.



SHONA DONNELLY: "I have been involved in the Trust since the very beginning of Space to Live and have lived in Neilston for 33 years having brought up both my sons in the village". Shona served as secretary from 2004-11.



PAULINE GALLACHER: a Neilston resident for 36 years, Pauline is a member of the volunteer management team, and has been involved with NDT /Space to Live from the start. 'Having been active in most aspects of the Trust development, it's great to be seeing NDT moving into a new phase, with Linda coming to work for us and exciting times ahead with the Bank. We've also got new blood on the board; growth and positive developments all round!'



LAURA CARSWELL, CULTURAL CONVENOR "Working (as part of the volunteer management team) has provided me with a great opportunity to be part of community development in action and to gain experience in all sorts of challenging activities and developments, including delivering the Festival and a year round cultural programme. As a mother with two young children, the past 11 years that I have lived in Neilston have been the most fulfilling time of my life yet.

*charities/companies have boards and directors/trustees- another name for a management committee and committee members

neilston ^{up} _{for} powerdown

POWERS DOWN

It is with great regret that we announce the end of the Powerdown project, which has seen our team of Jonas, Marlene, Cat and Davy put a human face to the message of energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

In a population of over 5,500 it's difficult to reach out to each and every household, (although we do try with the Space). But we know that the Powerdown team did just that, with Home Energy Checks, carbon foot printing, household thermal surveys and many other initiatives, and all this in far from ideal conditions - first a freezing and leaking Bank, and then cramped and uncomfortable portacabins.

Unfortunately, the extra year's funding we applied for was not granted. Many other Powerdown projects suffered the same fate, only 10 days before staff contracts were about to end. So a big disappointment for the Trust, but bigger issues for our staff, who are now out of a job. We can only hope that the practical experience and the training they received through the programme, plus their exceptional ability to relate to people, will serve them well in a difficult jobs market. Typical of their commitment is the fact that a couple of the team have offered to volunteer with the Trust. Many thanks to all; let's hope we can continue to work on our individual and community carbon footprint and repay the investment that's been made in us.

To see some of the achievements of the team turn the page. It's up to us now to continue the good work they began. Small changes add up to a lot, if 5000 people make them.



Footnote: the Bank has received significant funding to become a very low-carbon building, with top levels of insulation, a wood pellet boiler and solar hot water. We hope it will become a great platform for further projects and

both individual and community efforts to combat climate change, an issue that's much talked about now, but which is going to become more and more part of our lives in years to come.

JOIN US!

At the start of another year of possibility for the village and the Trust, please consider joining NDT (£1 life membership). That gives you a say in how we go forward.

Joined already? Why not give a couple of hours a month and join the action?

Fill in form and return to:
The Secretary,
Neilston Development Trust,
The Old Bank, 84 Main Street,
Neilston G78 3AE.



NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

I would like to apply for membership of Neilston Development Trust.

Name _____ Age (if under 18) _____

Address _____

Postcode (essential) _____

Tel _____ E-mail _____

My Interests (e.g. sport, gardening, local history) _____

Organisations I'm involved with (e.g. Scouts, residents' associations) _____

I'd like to get involved in Neilston Development Trust, please contact me to discuss

I enclose £1 membership (free if under 18)

Signature* _____ Date _____

*I give my permission for my details to be held by NDT for the sole purpose of communicating with me as an NDT member.

POWERDOWN ACHIEVEMENTS



COMMUNITY WIDE CARBON FOOTPRINT

Footprint Surveys:

- 239 carbon footprint surveys completed and processed (10.43% of total households in Neilston). Each has received a personal carbon footprint report.

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVICE SERVICE

Home Energy Check surveys (HEC):

- 400 HECs completed to date, forwarded to Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre (ESSAC) to be processed and home energy report sent to the householder

HOME VISIT ADVICE:

- 197 households benefited from our full home energy advice service, about 30% aged over 60s. This has been a crucial service to those least able to afford spiralling energy costs.
- Energy efficient bulbs, standby plugs distributed, energy saving shower heads distributed. More in stock with NDT - please ask!

ENERGY MONITOR LOAN SCHEME:

The energy monitor loan scheme has been an effective way to bring about behaviour change, as people see how much it costs to overfill a kettle!

INSTALLED ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES:

- 39 cavity wall, and 68 loft installations installed
- 68 households qualified for assistance or subsidy

THERMAL IMAGE CAMPAIGN:

Infra red thermal imaging was offered to householders, giving a picture of how heat is lost in individual buildings: 455 properties were photographed.

KITCHEN CANNY CHALLENGE – REDUCING FOOD WASTE :

33 households took part in our kitchen canny challenge to reduce their food waste

COMMUNITY RENEWABLES - HYDRO PROJECT UPDATE :

A first stage feasibility study was carried out on several water courses and recommendations for further action made.

THE BANK PROJECT – ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Funding has been obtained from the Climate Challenge Fund and CARES to make the building as 'green' as possible. We'll be telling you all about it when the building opens.

CROFTHEAD BOWLING CLUB:

Worked with club on energy efficiency; installed energy efficient lighting to value of £2000.

LOCAL SCHOOLS:

We worked with the local schools on various aspects of the project; the kids had a great time and learned a lot. Thanks to staff who were so welcoming to the team.

BIG SOCIETY? IT'S NOT ALL PLAIN SAILING!

SPACE 10 brought the great news of funding support for the Bank. But as our AGM in February heard, all this has been achieved on countless hours of volunteer input, with little or no funds to support our core operation. NDT's work has been praised by government ministers as a prime example of what communities can do for themselves, meeting social, cultural, economic, environmental targets, and all contributing to 'community resilience', the latest jargon term. NDT's Board felt it was important to point out the contradictions in this. "If Government wants soundly governed, responsible, sustainable social enterprise to sit at the heart of communities, providing an appropriate and well considered complement to the proper functions of the public sector, building social cohesion, capacity in creative partnership with other agencies; if it wants volunteering to play a positive part in the growth of social and personal capital; if it genuinely wants to see sustainable, thriving and 'empowered' communities in charge of their

own future – why, then, should these organisations not be properly resourced in their early years to become effective, functioning community companies, picking up on the energies and vision of local people, of course, but not being reliant on that alone?

"If even a fraction of the challenges of the agenda set out for this new time are to be met and realised, the flowering of local energy and creativity where it manifests itself should be nurtured - and soon – lest it withers on the vine. And not just by one 'spot' initiative after another; but by a steady, unglamorous commitment to the creation of a lasting edifice. This means core funding in the early years. National funding for emergent community trusts and like organisations would run to a few millions per year, but would deliver long-term value and resilience in a network of real agents for change."

Extract from Trustees Report, NDT annual accounts 2009-10
POLITICIANS, PLEASE NOTE!



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