

the SPACE



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

No 16 | Mar/Apr 2013



SPRING INTO ACTION!

We know it's not Neilston (it isn't snowing) but this lovely picture says it all. It's the time of year to be thinking of new starts and the longer days coming in. It's not often that what's good for you is also fun, but thousands of people of all ages are beginning to rediscover that legs (and boots) were made for walking. Here are some ways to take first steps. Who knows where they will take you?

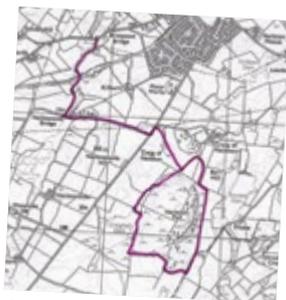
WEDNESDAY WALKERS

The Wednesday Walkers welcome you to join them for their weekly stroll. Join the longish walk, meeting at the Bank at 10am (60 minutes +) or the shorter stroll (20-25 minutes) at 10.30am. Both walks end at the bank with a cuppa and a chat.

THE PAD RACE/WALK/CRAWL

Like the Neilston Show, the Pad Race is a long-standing Neilston tradition. What you may not know is that you don't have to be a great runner to take part! So why not set yourself a walk or a jog round the Pad as a belated New Year resolution? If you'd like some support with training, the Neilston/Barrhead Jog Club welcomes runners of all levels and abilities on **Thursday nights, 6.15pm at the Barrhead Leisure Centre.**

The **Pad Race**, on Neilston Show Day Saturday May 4th, follows a 4.5km route (see insert) and is held under Scottish Athletics rules. Go to www.neilstonshow.co.uk or call in at the Bank for more info. If a jog or a run is definitely not for you, how about joining this year's **Pad Walk**? Same day, same route as the race, but at your own pace. Great views and lots of fresh air guaranteed. Under-16s are welcome if accompanied by an adult.



Detailed map route available online at NDT website

CYCLE WORK – IN PROGRESS!

Lots going on behind the scenes, with our 6 Cycle Scotland-trained cycle leaders practising their skills in order to support Neilston folks to get out on their bikes. And our two bike mechanics are sharpening their tools for the launch of our **bike repair and hire service.** (All involved are volunteers.) Current engagements include helping the Neilston Scouts with their Bike Badge and the Primary 6 & 7 pupils of both primary schools with their Bikability and Bike Club plans. Your turn next! More information and launch dates in the next edition of the Space.



PILATES: ANOTHER ROUTE TO FITNESS... AND NO WALKING INVOLVED!

Pilates is a holistic mind-body exercise method, designed to elongate, strengthen and restore body balance, and can be beneficial for just about everyone, regardless of age and fitness level. It improves your posture, mobility and flexibility, promotes a strong supportive core and increases the stability and health of your joints. Karen Bryson, a Pilates Foundation qualified instructor, has run Wednesday evening classes at the Bank for a year now.



Pilates at the Bank: it's quite comfortable - really!

The next six-week block starts end February. (Beginners at 6pm, Intermediate at 7pm, Beginners/improvers at 8pm).

Contact Karen on 07531 017251 or email kbpilates@btinternet.com

Sign up to our mailing list to receive regular updates at <http://ow.ly/hvS5D>

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS FOLLOW US



NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST



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WINDFARM – THOSE BLADES ARE TURNING!

At time of writing, we have one turbine generating energy. All four should soon be in operation, to time and on budget; despite the worst that Neilston's weather could throw at it, the team has worked to meet construction targets.

Once more, thanks to all residents who were in any way inconvenienced by the progress of works and turbine deliveries. We have a DVD of the construction, which will be on show at the official opening of the project on **Monday 13th May by Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Deputy First Minister**. We are delighted to have such a senior politician coming to Neilston, evidence of the status of this partnership between a commercial developer and a community as a 'first' in the field of community-owned renewable energy.

We are working with the three local schools to mark the

moment when Neilston makes its own contribution to the drive for green energy.

We'll be making sure that everyone has the chance to get up close and personal with our very own turbines. We will arrange an **OPEN DAY** during the school summer holidays when we'll provide transport to the site and take you round and explain how the whole thing works.

More information next issue and on our website.



Come in, no 2!

TOWN TEAM / CHARTER

Momentum is gradually building around the Town Charter (the document), the Town Team (the people) and the delivery of the projects (the proof of the pudding) that will make Neilston a better place to live in. By the time this reaches you, three meetings will have taken place. The first two were re-starting the process, getting awareness



Now let's get down to business - flashback to the 2009 Town Team meetings

and information out there. The meeting on 12th February (coming soon at time of writing) related to how we go forward as a community, trying to ensure that everyone who wants to make a constructive contribution to the conversation can be heard and involved in

ways that work for them. The outcome of that meeting will be made public, of course, and will point the way forward to what we hope will be a lively, inclusive and enjoyable structure for everyone to get involved in.

For all the information you need on the Town Charter, Neilston's Renaissance and the Town Team, please visit www.neilstontrust.co.uk.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEW 'TAKE' ON THE VILLAGE

As part of the current detached youth work programme that runs in Neilston, and in collaboration with the spectacular Urbancroft Media, young people have had the opportunity to take part in a 10-week project in which they created 1 minute films on the issue or topic of their choice, including football, dance, 'what Neilston means to me', drumming and even a Gangnam style dance.



See me? See films?

Young people have starred in the films but also had the opportunity to be behind the camera, and **at Neilston Library during February young people can come along and learn how to edit the films**. The project has been a great success and has been a partnership project between Urbancroft Media, Young Person Services and ERC Arts department. Look out for news of screenings of the work - perhaps in unusual venues!

OUR FIRST BANK BABY

We had a wedding, but never a baby; we have one now!

Little Lois Elrick decided to announce her imminent arrival in the café a few weeks ago, when her mother Karen and friends were having lunch. Drama over, and baby safely delivered (not in the Bank, though the therapy room could have served!), we were glad to welcome Karen and husband Bruce back to mark the occasion with gifts for Lois and big sister Amy, handcrafted by local knitter extraordinaire Christine Gray. We're all in favour of locally produced goods – of every kind!



NDT MUSIC SCENE



An historic debut?

EAST RENFREWSHIRE YOUTH BAND PIPERS BLAST OFF!

In December, another world class Crofthead Concert welcomed piping legend Fred Morrison. The sell-out gig was a memorable experience, not just because the audience couldn't get enough of Fred's piping wizardry, but also because of the fantastic new piping talent bursting on to the Scottish scene, in the shape of the East Renfrewshire Youth Pipe Band. Trained by the highly skilled, patient and irreplaceable Pipe Major Iain MacDonald, with support from daughter Fiona and son Finlay, the Youth Pipe Band has embarked on a great journey with a great guide. What better place to start than as a support act for Fred Morrison! **Good luck all the way and thanks for starting off in Neilston!**

NEILSTON UKE AND VOCAL GROUP CELEBRATE ST ANDREW'S DAY

The Bank has been home to fortnightly classes in singing and uke playing since last September and gave their first joint performance in December. The Bank rang to tunes old and new, and mulled wine and mince pies were also involved in the jolly event, which was part of a Scotland-wide celebration of community singing, organised by Hands up for Trad (see www.scottishcultureonline.com).



ALL TOGETHER NOW...

Neilston Vocal Group restarts Saturday 9th March

The Neilston Vocal Group (official name to be announced soon!) would love more folks to get involved, men as well as women! Singing is cool, especially under the lively instruction of local star

Lou Hickey, who brings a relaxed style and a great choice of contemporary songs. No music reading skills or audition required - just enthusiasm and love of song!

We're offering the first class 9th March free to newcomers of all ages.

Saturdays, fortnightly: 9th & 23rd March, 6th April & 20th April, 3pm-4.30pm
Per session: £3 under 16s; £5 over 16s

JOIN THE NATIONAL UKE UPRISING!

The Neilston Ukulele group (a snazzier title needed here too!) is back in the swing and would love more folks to come along and give it a try. **Join us for the start of the new session, Wednesday 13th March.**

We're offering the first class free to newcomers. Ukes available. No music reading skills required.

Wednesdays, fortnightly: 13th & 27th March; 10th & 24th April, 8pm-9pm
Per session: £3 under 16s; £5 over 16s



*The Bank Cafe is currently open Tuesday - Friday 10am - 2.30pm
Closed Saturday - Monday*

WHAT'S ON AT THE BANK...

HAPPY CRAFTERS: CARD MAKING

Alternate Mondays 7-9pm. Feeling creative? There's a whole world of card materials, and here's where to learn how to use them to greatest effect. **Contact Gail Cameron for dates and details: 07867 507415**

JOIN THE KNITTERS OF NEILSTON

Every second Monday at 7pm. All welcome - from scarves for Teddy to lace shawl masterpieces - you'll find them all here!

Contact Pam Faulds on 0141 881 8436

BEAUTY THERAPIES AND TREATMENTS

The Bank is home to a number of beauty therapists offering a range of services including massage, nails, tanning, and aromatherapy. **Pick up a leaflet at the Bank**

WHY NOT HIRE THE BANK FOR YOUR OWN PARTY, MEETING OR ACTIVITY?

Phone Gillian on 0141 561 1201 to discuss.

HAROLD JOSEPH SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

Providing legal advice and representation.
By appointment: contact 0141 420 1896

HUGH HENRY MSP AND JIM MURPHY MP SURGERY

Friday 15th March, Friday 19th April, 8pm-9pm

By appointment: Hugh Henry 0141 848 7361 or Jim Murphy 0141 620 6310

Unless otherwise stated, further information and booking is available by calling 0141 561 1201 or emailing admin@neilstontrust.co.uk.



From right: Letitia and Lisa, with 'old hands' Anne Marie and Linda.

Two new Café volunteers have joined the team. Interested in coming on board with such a cheery lot?

Call Anne Macdonald on 0141 561 1201

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Community Council meets in the Glen Halls at 7pm on the last Tuesday of each month. If you have concerns about anything or good ideas for the village, do come along. Remember the **CC exists to represent the views of the people of Neilston**. Our councillors, police and community wardens attend, so you can have a chat with them before the meeting starts.

The CC is a statutory consultee on planning and licensing matters, but apart from our statutory role, we are always seeking to improve the village in small ways. A few of our achievements this past six months are: the Robertson Exhibition in the library (and donation of the picture); cleaning up of the Robertson Obelisk in Pig Square; repainting benches in Kirkstyle Lane, and organising the Christmas lights at the Square and in front of shops.

The CC represents the community at numerous village groups including Hillside Tenants & Residents Association, the

Pathways Group, and most noticeably in recent weeks, the Swimming Pool Focus Group. This group meets with management and officials from Leisure & Education on a regular basis, and this close working relationship, together with determined lobbying by all concerned, no doubt helped to

achieve the present outcome. You

may already know that the new proposed Local Development Plan has just been published. It shows in detail where ERC

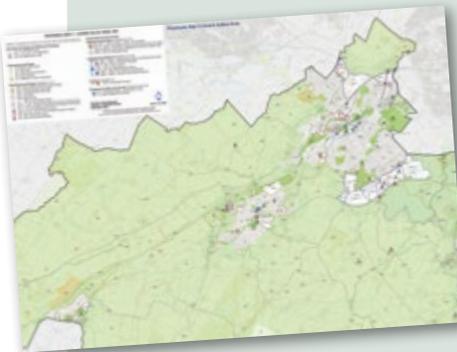
wants to allow new housing and other developments in your village. **You have just 12 weeks to respond.**

The next CC meeting, Glen Halls, Tuesday 26th February, 7pm is going to be probably the most important for at least the next seven years. Heading the agenda will be "The New Local Development Plan. Proposals for housing and other major works in and around Neilston" We want to hear your views so please come along.

Also on the agenda will be the proposed village-wide tree planting scheme. This is still very much in its infancy and discussions with Woodland Trust and ERC Parks Department have gone well. The bottom line is that Neilston has lost hundreds of trees over the past few decades. We want to replace them. We would like to work with the Neilston Development Trust and involve schools, clubs and community groups. Can you help? Don't worry, you won't be asked to dig holes for the young trees or even get wet or muddy! Funds for young trees and people to plant them are available. **Can you help? Come along to a CC meeting or email neilston.cc@hotmail.co.uk.**



Much-loved trees have gradually disappeared from the village scene



i **The next CC meeting, Glen Halls, Tuesday 26th February, 7pm**

SPACE TO EXERCISE!

Every couple of months we call on a trusty team of volunteers to deliver the Space newsletter to your door. It would be great to increase the pool of helpers so we don't need to ask too much of people's time. **Could you deliver to 50 or so households, or help organise bundles? Call Gillian on 0141 561 1201.**



NDT's AGM will be held in the Bank at 7pm on Thursday 21st March. All members welcome.



SANTA CLAUS DID COME TO TOWN! A MESSAGE FROM HQ...

Dear people of Neilston

It is always such a pleasure to come to your lovely village and the Santa Sleigh was looking as magnificent as ever. I want to thank lots of people, especially the elves that helped me make my rounds on the 24th, and the kind people of Neilston who gave so generously of their time and money to make the whole thing happen. That includes the shopkeepers and bar tenders who gathered in the donations; the volunteers who cared for, cleaned and readied the sleigh; the sleigh team who stay cheerful as ever, through wind and rain; and finally, to all of you who came out to greet us on the big night. See you next time!



He turned up at the Bank too! Neilston MUST be special...

Santa



NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST
www.neilstontrust.co.uk



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