

the SPACE



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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NEILSTON'S CYCLE LEADERS MEET THE WHIRLEY GIGS



Introducing Twirlie, Whirlie, Birlie....

...and Whoosh!

THE POWER OF PUFF!

What a week for Neilston; two renewable energy projects getting the red ribbon treatment at once, wind-powered electricity and people-powered transport! See *Page 4* for more photos of the windfarm opening, and *Page 3* to find out more about Neilston's Bike Hub programme and services, housed in the Aladdin's cycling cave round the back of the Bank.

The Hub was launched at our Bank Open Day on 18th May. Did you make it along? Lots of folk did!

TOWN CHARTER

But just as important as these jolly events is the work that's gone into rebooting the Town Charter. The final meeting of the 2012-13 series will take place on **26th June**. And if meetings aren't your thing, you can still give your views on village priorities. See *Page 2*

**HAVE A GOOD SUMMER, EVERYONE,
WHETHER YOU'RE HEADING FOR FARAWAY
PLACES OR STAYING IN BEAUTIFUL NEILSTON.**



i BANK CAFE SUMMER OPENING HOURS

Cafe closed during first fortnight of July. Otherwise, open Thursdays and Fridays only, 10am-2.30pm, June to end August (serving full menu).

Happy holidays to our trusty volunteer team (See inside for what they've done for NDT over the past 18 months).

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

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CHARTER WRAP-UP (FOR NOW!)

26TH JUNE 7PM, GLEN HALLS

Anyone who thought the Neilston Renaissance was a matter of a shiny document and a few town meetings, didn't realise just what it takes to make things happen. And if Rome wasn't built in a day, that's even more true of the vision that we created together four years ago.

Thankfully, no one at that time thought the Charter document was the end of the story, but rather the launching pad for an adventure in collaboration across a range of projects of all scales and types. What we didn't have was a clear map for how to deliver all these great projects in this new way. With the assistance of the ERC Community Planning Team, a working group of the Town Team has considered these matters, so that on the 26th, the menu will include a structure for Charter delivery - at last. Not exactly exciting stuff? True, but important nonetheless. If this isn't right then we remain in a muddle. The structure will allow us all to get down to the themes and projects that everyone wants to see moved along, allowing energies to focus on action rather than talk. The framework will be given time to settle down and then will be subject to review.

Also on the menu will be feedback on the workshop on 11th May, at which people ranked a series of **THEMES** covering the 44 projects of the Charter, including village centre

improvements, cultural, community and leisure facilities, and heritage. This will assist in informing the creation of working groups as we go into the autumn.

So, far from wrapping up the Charter, the June 26th meeting will be the end of the beginning, drawing a line under a testing interim period, where new ground has been broken in taking the process forward. Come along and see where we've got to.

MISSED THE WORKSHOP?

There's still time to give your views on the charter themes. Visit www.neilstontrust.co.uk, or take a minute to fill in a very short form, available at the Bank, the station, the library and other village outlets, with a deadline of end August. Your opinions will help to shape the establishment of working groups that best reflect local priorities.



Two ticks (actually 6) is all it will take to rank your top priorities for the village. We'll even throw in a biscuit, if that's what it takes

THE BANK

The Open Day on 18th May was great fun, despite the gloomy skies. About 200 people had a go at something or other and there were sign-ups for singing, cycling, gardening, Pilates and ukulele (as expected, no candidates opted for ALL of the above!). Guided tours of the windfarm were also on offer.

The Bank Cafe has been open for about 18 months now - we regularly serve over 150 people a week and we reckon that this has included over 2500 scones, 4000 bowls of soup and over 5000 cups of coffee! We pride ourselves on serving fresh, homemade food at affordable prices and we are only able to do this due to the effort and enthusiasm of our fantastic team of cafe volunteers.

Over the next couple of months, to enable volunteers to have a break, go on holiday and to recharge our batteries, we will be operating **reduced opening hours, with a full café closure during first fortnight of July. Apart from this, from 10th June until end August, we will be open Thursdays and Fridays only.** We will still be offering the same delicious range of lunch options and homebaking so make sure to pop in and see us. And, if you are interested in becoming part of our cafe team, do get in touch.



ON YOUR BIKE!

SATURDAYS AND TUESDAYS AT THE BANK

Own up - when was the last time you sat on a bike? And what is that sad machine doing rusting at the back of your shed? If the spirit is willing (even a little bit), that's all you need. The Bank Bike Hub will sort out your fear of the road, your buckled spokes and gently introduce you to the new cool way to get around. If you don't have a bike, you can hire one and give it a go under the helpful eye of our trainers.

EVERY SATURDAY

Starting 1st June, 10am-12pm book your bike in for a repair with our trained volunteer mechanics. They will carry out small repairs to full bike service at great prices. Booking required.

Or hire a bike for anyone in the family to try out. We have 6 brand new bikes for adults and children, with all the kit, for hire by the week or by arrangement.

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Starting 1st June, 10.30am-12.30pm is also the time for a short led ride round village. Build up your confidence and join us for a cup of tea at the end.

EVERY TUESDAY

From 4th June, 7-9pm, is training night. Learn how to repair and maintain your own bike and keep it safe for the road, plus games and activities to help all age groups build up your cycle skills and confidence. Booking required.

Get in touch - admin@neilstontrust.co.uk or 0141 561 1201 to arrange a hire or book your bike in for repair. Pop in to find out more or visit www.neilstontrust.co.uk.

FREE BIKE CHECKS

The Neilston Bike Hub are offering FREE Bike Checks on Saturday 22nd June 10am-12pm at the Bank Bike Hub as part of UK Bike Week (15th-23rd July).

Bring your bike along for a check and adjustment by our mechanics PLUS get your bike ID'd for safe keeping.



Cycling Scotland



PILATES

8-9pm class starting from this week due to increased numbers – some spaces available!

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

PERSPECTIVE

A new display, at the Bank, of pictures in charcoal by local artist and silversmith Tricia Murray.

Tricia originally trained as a fine art printmaker at the Glasgow School of Art and later as a jewellery designer /maker. She is now a Reiki practitioner and busy mum as well as a keen gardener and crafts person.

NEILSTON YOUTH ACTIVITIES

A complaint heard time and again is that there's nothing for young people to do. We have put together a list of youth activities currently taking place in the village, and while there's always room for more, it's surprising how much goes on. Check it out on the Bank noticeboard or in the café. We will hopefully be updating this regularly, so if you are aware of activities you'd like to include, please let us know.



REMEMBER, THE BANK IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE OVER THE SUMMER FOR CHILDREN'S PARTIES, GROUP EVENTS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS. Phone 0141 561 1201 to discuss.

...AND FOR THE FAMILY ALBUM

WINDFARM OPENING

May 13 was the day, and even the ferocious hail showers timed themselves to let the honours be duly performed. Provost, MSPs, local councillors, community council, windfarm landowners, schools and churches had all been invited along, together with lenders, officials from Scottish and local government and reps from the community energy and development trust movement.

The pictures say it all. Cakes were cut, turbines named, plaques presented, time capsules buried, ribbons snipped and fizzy sipped. There was no way we were missing this one!

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: *"The Neilston Community Windfarm is a great example of community-led regeneration, which is why the Scottish Government is supporting this £15.6 million development with a £250,000 investment as a pilot for the Renewable Energy Investment Fund."*

"...This Government is focused on supporting the growth of local and community ownership of renewable energy so that communities can share the rewards of Scotland's vast natural resources."



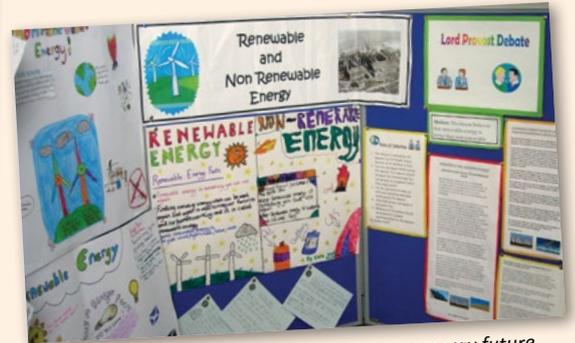
Katie Harvey, P3 Neilston Primary, came up with a 'family' name for the turbines — from now on they're the Whirley Gigs!



Hollie Millar P2 Neilston Primary, christened them Twirlie, Whirlie, Birlie and Whoosh



A more prosperous village future for these children



Both Primaries displayed great work on our energy future



Megan Muir (Madras Family Centre)
Jack Hoiles (Neilston Primary) and Keir Lawless (St Thomas) did the business on the cake front



Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon officially opens Neilston Community Windfarm



Joseph Kearney & Ellie Wilson, St Thomas Primary



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LOTTERY FUNDED



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The Bank, 84 Main Street, Neilston G78 3EA T: 0141 561 1201 E: admin@neilstontrust.co.uk W: www.neilstontrust.co.uk

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