

## *SPECIAL FOCUS THIS ISSUE*

### **WALKING AND PEDESTRIAN ISSUES**

*"A staggering 75% of the UK's population are at risk of serious health problems due to inactivity. Yet a robust 30-minute walk five times a week would help alleviate this."*  
**Ramblers' Association**

## **Big plans A-FOOT for Neilston walk**

### **WALKING IS BIG NEWS THESE DAYS.**

Walking for health, access issues, childhood obesity, community safety – all these big themes convince us that this is the issue of the moment, locally and nationally. Shanks's pony hasn't been so fashionable for a long time.

So whether it's your burning curiosity about village history or a creeping unease about the extra inches gained during the holiday, or merely the realisation that it's years since you took a stroll round the place, there's a big event coming up that you should not miss.



*EVERYONE'S WALKIN' THE WALK*

*PIC B WATT*

**SATURDAY  
18 SEPTEMBER 2004  
WALK 11.45AM  
FOOD (AND MORE) 1.30-3.30  
Assemble car park opposite  
nursery 11.30 AM**

## **‘WALKING THE NEILSTON WAY**

**SEE INSIDE P.3 FOR FULL STORY**

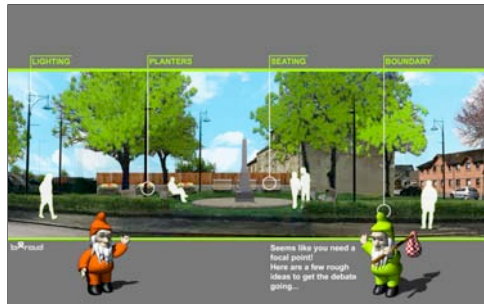
## SPACED OUT AT THE NEILSTON SHOW

*By common consent this year's show was one of the best ever. Space to Live was out in force with features to explain and engage.*



Hot spots of concern, areas with potential and favourite places were highlighted in a 'place the dot' exercise. Traffic, dog-fouling and litter, the appearance of some buildings (can you guess what they are?) were big concerns. Places of potential included Cowdenhall, Neilston's very own 'secret garden'. Suitable places for treatment included the cross, the playing fields and the area in front of the library.

Strangely enough, our computer designers chose these very areas to look at in their trendy computer simulation of how Neilston *could* change. Just to get the debate going, as the gnome remarked...



Created by Glasgow based **b-rad design**  
contact [timi@b-rad.co.uk](mailto:timi@b-rad.co.uk)

Oh, yes, the gnomes...A few people wanted to *buy* our cheery chaps, but the Neilston Gnomes are not for sale. The nearest you get to owning one is to name and sponsor one, and fifty people did just that at the show. These bright fellows are on a mission, 'promoting a beautiful, people-friendly environment' by turning up when you least expect, commenting on the good, the bad and the ugly.

# MEET THE TEAM

*Every issue we'll be meeting one of the committee members and finding out why they're involved with Space to Live. First up is Chair, J.J. Turner*

A big hello to all the residents, businesses and service users in the Neilston area. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm JJ Turner, the chair of the Space to Live committee. Some of you might know me as that man with the five daughters. I've thought long and hard over what to put in this column and I thought it best to start at the beginning.

Like many of you, my introduction to Space to Live was via a postcard through my door advertising the public meetings. I went along to the Glen Hall and listened to what Pauline Gallacher had to say. Although I didn't have a definite idea of what the project would entail, I left the meeting with a desire to get involved. I liked the idea of looking at ways to improve the use of space in the village and felt that I could contribute in some small way or other. Little did I know I'd end up as the chair but my

contribution remains a small part of the work we will ultimately undertake. You see, like my fellow committee members, I have definite visions of how Neilston can grow as a community but it's not about my vision or that of the other committee members. We are driven by what the community as a whole desires.

We cannot move forward effectively without your input. Whether it's to do with the traffic, the availability of public buildings, the look of the village as you walk around the area you live or a lack of activities or night life attractions, we would like to hear from you. We can all make a difference if we take our environment to our hearts and consider how our surroundings can improve our daily lives. So please, read the rest of this newsletter and get involved. Even if you just want more information, everyone's views and questions are welcome. I look forward to hearing some of your views and finding ways of including them in *Space to Live*.

## SPACE TO LIVE: THE LOW-DOWN

*In case the occasional reader has not already had the hard sell from Space to Live, here's what we are all about.*

Constituted at the end of March this year, this independent community-based organisation has the following aims:

**To develop and implement a community-based public space strategy**, which:

- is of exemplary design quality,
- is locally directed and developed,
- expresses the values of sustainable development,
- and thus reflects and enriches the common life of Neilston.

So far we have:

- held public meetings
- recruited a management committee of 12
- had ERC and community council support
- delivered the Neilston show event,
- made contact with a range of village organisations
- produced the festival plan and the newsletter
- organised the big walk
- investigated funding sources

And we're planning much more to come!

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## WALK 21 COPENHAGEN; CITIES FOR PEOPLE

The fifth worldwide conference on walking took place recently in Copenhagen. Not a festival of anoraks, but an amazingly diverse gathering of urban designers, pedestrian organisations, health workers and planners from 35 countries, looking at ways of promoting the human scale in the way we design our towns and cities. For thousands of years, people made their way around on their own two feet, or in slow moving carriages, and cities were built around the reality of 'walking distance'. Then about 100 years ago, the needs of the car transformed the way places look and work. This was not an anti-car rally, but what it did do was take a very hard look at what happens to quality of life,

health, social equity and the environment when the needs of the car take precedence over the needs of the person on foot. Star of the show was the ex mayor of Bogotá in Colombia, a city with massive issues of poverty and development. Instead of building roads, he created a system of pedestrian highways, public transport, good public spaces and fine schools, bringing dignity and hope, even to the poorest, rather than choking the city still further by cars that only the rich can afford.

***'We should be creating beautiful buildings and places where a citizen is welcome, not because of his wealth or his degrees, but only for being a citizen'***, he said.

*"THOSE WHO SAY THEY  
HAVE NO TIME FOR  
EXERCISE WILL FIND  
SOONER OR LATER THEY  
HAVE TO HAVE THE TIME  
FOR ILLNESS"*

*DR B PEDERSON  
AT WALK 21*

# WALKING THE NEILSTON WAY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

## WHAT?

A community walk for all ages, going around the village on a route devised to take us into all the neighbourhoods of the village. No heavy-duty hiking involved. Calling folk from the back end of the Bovis to the foot of the Kirkhill Brae; here's a chance to take a saunter through the place. It may have changed since the last time you took a look!

### *More than just a walk!*

The main point is that it's a social event, a way of looking at the village but meeting each other. LOOKING, TALKING, MEETING, SNAPPING, LEARNING. Think fun.

Tea in the (car) park, live music, photography, local history and ecology chat, some surprises. Think how your organisation could make a fun contribution. (We'll be contacting groups)

**The hidden agenda...**(not really hidden, but it sounds exciting) is to start gathering your impressions, memories, images, stories about the village to build up a picture of village life and priorities. We also want to get people together across interests, generations and backgrounds,

**WHO?** The whole family – this is a walk for non-walkers, all you guys that love living in Neilston but never hit the streets; it's for young people, for buggies and wheelchairs, for rockers and squares.

**WHY?** The wider Space to Live programme has a strong focus on walking and designing places for the pedestrian. Think about it; how much of any place do you see from a car? How many people do you meet behind a wheel? How can you comment on public space if you're stuck in a little private one? We're absolutely not car-haters, but leave it at home for once and come and smell the flowers!

**WHEN?** The afternoon of Saturday 18 September

**WHERE?** The walk will begin from the area opposite Neilston Parish Church Hall and return there for an open-air party (bad weather arrangements also planned!) Route details in enclosed flyer.

**BUT WILL IT RAIN?** Major prizes for the zaniest bin-bag poncho, wacky wellies or outlandish umbrella.

**And if it doesn't?** Major prizes for the best **alternative** uses of ponchos, wellies and brollies!

JOIN SPACE TO LIVE – SEE  
BACK PAGE



*THE GNOMES SHOW THE  
WAY... LOOK OUT FOR  
THEM ON THE WALK!*

# NEILSTON WALK PART OF NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

**OUR NEILSTON WALK TAKES PLACE WITHIN 'WELCOME TO WALKING' WEEK, PART OF A BIG NATIONAL CAMPAIGN:**

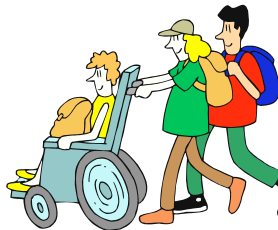
*"Britain on the Move, launched by ITV in conjunction with the **Ramblers' Association**, is the biggest initiative yet to encourage people in Britain to get out and exercise. Lack of physical activity is a problem that is costing the health service millions and producing an increasingly unfit and overweight nation.*

*Walking may be child's play but fewer of us are doing enough of it on a regular basis to benefit our health, especially at a*

*young age, and obesity is at its highest ever level. The Ramblers and ITV are working together to encourage people towards better health and fitness by providing walking opportunities throughout the summer of 2004.*

*The main focus of the campaign is on ITV's Day of Walking on Sunday 19 September, which marks the beginning of the Ramblers' annual festival **Millets Welcome To Walking Week***

*(From [www.ramblers.org.uk/info/events](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/events))*



# NEILSTON LIVE!

## A FESTIVAL OF NEILSTON



Since getting constituted on March 31, the *Space to Live* management committee has been hard at work behind the scenes. There's been no shortage of ideas, indeed the challenge has been pulling them into a manageable shape... and that's *before* we really get started!

We promised to bring forward ideas to celebrate the **life** of Neilston and for producing a **strategy for the open spaces**. So here's our starter for 10.

***NEILSTON LIVE*** is our working title for a **festival of Neilston**, developing now towards summer next year.

**But we can't do it alone.** So think about that couple of hours you might give to Space to Live; see below for different ways of getting involved.

**We guarantee good fun!**

**4 MAIN THEMES** will offer something for everyone.

## ***THEME 1: MOVE YOURSELF! OUR PEDESTRIAN THEME***

The best way to 'live the village' is to walk it. Plenty of people already do - that's when you see things, smell the flowers (and the pies), meet your pals at the bus stop and watch the wee ones coming out of school – but plenty of us don't. So watch out for a range of walks to suit all tastes. The September walk (see lead article) is a whole-community event; others will be smaller and may look at specific areas or topics.

**JOIN US ON 18 SEPTEMBER AND START CHECKING OUT THOSE PUBLIC SPACES!**

**East Renfrewshire Council WALKING FOR HEALTH** already operates a very popular programme of one-hour walks designed to encourage mobility. The sociability that goes along with them seems to need little encouragement! Marie Hedges of *Health Connect* (577 8436) says:

*'We would be interested to hear from anyone in Neilston who would like to join our existing walks (Tuesday from 9.45 at Barrhead Sports centre) or would like to join new health walks in Neilston (dates and times still to be confirmed), also if there are any people interested in becoming a volunteer walk leader.'*

**WANTED:** people interested in organising or guiding walks. Contact Shona Donnelly 561 8836



## THEME 2: ROOTED! OUR GREEN THEME

**WANTED:** people with ideas and energy for growing projects (from a tub to an allotment) to brighten up a corner of the village or transform a gap site.

Think open space, think growing things. If your idea of bliss is a patch of concrete, this is not for you. Doctors tell us that even *looking* at green space and trees speeds the healing process. Many also find that making things grow is good fun and the number of gardening and do it yourself environment projects demonstrates how people enjoy getting together to turn a space around. Already we have the School Grounds Improvement Groups (pictured opposite) and the community garden project in Hillside.

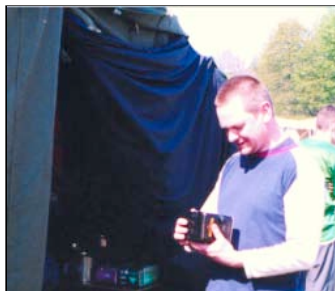
**Focus on *ROOTED!* in a future issue**



*GROWING PLANTS, GROWING CHILDREN,  
GROWING COMMUNITY: SGIG AT THE NURSERY*

## THEME 3: AN EYE ON NEILSTON

Looking through a lens captures a moment in time, a point of view. Anyone can take a picture, but first we have to look and chose what we want to capture. *That's why the camera is a great way to record and investigate the environment.* But there's also writing and video, and drawing and singing, anything that helps us explore and express what Neilston means for us. We hope to have **artists in residence** helping us to look at the village in a new way. More in future issues. In the meantime, get snapping!



*ARTIST STEPHEN HEALY RAN A POPULAR PIN-OLE CAMERA WORKSHOP AS PART OF SPACE TO LIVE'S EVENT AT THE NEILSTON SHOW*

## THEME 4: TIME OUT IN NEILSTON

**Time Out** is our way of including all the existing organisations in the village in the Space to Live process.

It's an **invitation** to those who have not chosen to engage directly with Space to Live to showcase what their particular organisation contributes to the public life of the village, e.g. a special Neilston Live parent and toddler group picnic in the park, a choral concert in the Church,

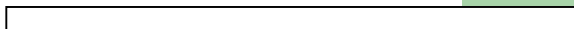
It's an **opportunity** for sports and active leisure organisations, to contribute to Neilston Live, for instance in a mini sports gala.

It's a **chance** to extend the conventional uses and functions of a range of public spaces, demonstrating what might be considered in designs for the future, e.g. outdoor cafes, food at the pool, child-friendly pubs, a rock concert in the football grounds.

***YOU MAY STILL BE UNCERTAIN HOW A FESTIVAL HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE DESIGN OF OUR STREETS AND SPACES. JUST THINK OF IT AS A BIG, FUN, PROCESS OF EXPLORATION. THE RESULTS MAY SURPRISE US.***

**WANTED:** local photographers and video enthusiasts (all ages and skill levels) to express interest in involvement.

**WANTED:** local groups and Council projects to consider how their activities (current or in planning) could contribute to Neilston Live



# PUBLIC SPACE

*WHO KNOWS THEIR NEILSTON CHARACTERS  
AND MONUMENTS?*

*ADVANCE NOTICE OF A FUN QUIZ COMING TO  
A PUB NEAR YOU! (EMPHASIS ON FUN)*

*BRUSH UP YOUR ANTIQUITIES!*



# ***WHAT' S GOIN' ON?***

Is there something in the water these days, or are Neilston people just becoming more active? This should be one of the busiest pages in the newsletter, crammed with information about groups and activities of every kind.

Even if you don't think a football match or a dance display or a karaoke night or a history talk has much to do with public space, use *this* public space in these columns to increase your profile. The connections will all start to add up.

## ***GLENMADRAS RESIDENTS IN GREAT DAY OUT***

Your newsletter editor was on holiday, but we hear that a great time was had by Glemadras residents' association in their recent fun day. Good luck with the playpark proposal, in need of a bit of loving care, as our snap shows.

Space to Live hopes to work with neighbourhood groups who are looking at their very own spaces and help their ideas become part of an overall strategy for the whole village.



## ***HILLSIDE KNOWS NO BOUNDS***



No hope of listing here all the events and activities being rolled out by the energetic folk at Hillside.

Community garden plans rolling on, in collaboration with Carts Greenspace, with start expected at end of the summer.

Summer programme for young people run in collaboration with ERC a huge success, including ski lessons and 'body jam'.

Fishing clubs, trips to Ayr, Loch Awe ... It's been quite a summer.

Full programme of activities for coming year. Contact Bill Lawless 580 5878

## ***LITTLE PEOPLE***



They've already made their point about the traffic at the school. Where do you think the gnomes should visit next?

Good places or bad? Look out for them.

We would like to hear from younger readers....what do you think about living in Neilston? What needs to be changed?

LET US KNOW!

# SOAP-BOX

## *EVERYONE'S CHANCE TO TELL THE WORLD*

### **RESIDENTS' CONCERN AT VILLAGE LANE**

The lane linking High Street and Main Street is an ideal shortcut within the village – just the kind of safe pedestrian route we should be encouraging. But residents in the vicinity have been pestered – no, plagued- by vandalism and bad behaviour. They're calling for CCTV cameras to be installed, and we don't blame them. But maybe we could be thinking about how good design can design out some of the problems before they arise – the path is not overlooked, so becomes insecure for walkers and provides cover for those up to no good.



**WHAT'S THE ISSUE OF THE MOMENT ON THE STREETS OF NEILSTON?**

Give us a call  
Send an email,  
A photo  
A poem or a moan, as long as it's printable we'll do our best to feature it

## ***SPACE TO LIVE SEES GREAT POTENTIAL IN RE-OPENING OF KIRK***

A happy day for the whole village, as Neilston Parish Church reopened recently, with due celebration and ceremony. It now stands carefully restored to its former glory and invites us to consider the events, the people and the stories it has witnessed in its time. The restoration comes at a good moment for our Space to Live project. Splendid as it is, it begs the question of how better it might yet be, if the cross itself and the open

space around the monument could provide a fitting context.

Neilston Kirk and Neilston Cross have been the heart of this place since mediaeval times. The church has been given the treatment it deserves; time to turn our attention to the cross?



# WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Who can identify this worthy gentleman, taking pride of place in front of Glasgow Cathedral?  
And what's the connection with Neilston?

*This one's easier:*

**Why is Molendinar Terrace so called?**

(Clue : Something to do with Crofthead Mill)

*Solutions next issue!*





**COMING  
SOON**

## THE IDEAS SHOP

WITH ALL THE FEEDBACK WE'RE BOUND TO GET FROM THIS ISSUE, THE WALK AND THE PROJECTS ALREADY BEING DEVELOPED, IT WILL BE SOON TIME TO RUN A BIG EVENT TO GET YOU AND YOUR IDEAS ON RECORD. WE'LL HAVE STALLS AND PRESENTATIONS AND WE HOPE, MUCH WILL BE LEARNED AND SHARED. LOOK OUT NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS.

### **INTRODUCING OUR PARTNERS**

LOOKING AT THE WAYS WE ARE WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS AND AGENCIES

### **CONTACT US**

**Shona Donnelly**  
*Secretary*  
30 Glen Falloch Crescent  
Neilston  
Tel: 561 8836  
email: shdonn@hotmail.com

**Pauline Gallacher**  
*Co-ordination*  
Tel: 881 1337  
Email:  
pauline.gallacher@btinternet.com

#### **CALLING ALL VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

Would you like to hear more about Space to Live?  
Unsure if your group could play a part?  
Why not ask for a speaker to come along to one of your meetings?  
Lively presentation and discussion assured.  
Helps you get thinking about what's in it for you and your friends.

#### **CALLING ALL VILLAGE BUSINESSES**

Space to Live is for you too! Think of the added value that village improvements will bring to your enterprise!

An advert in the newsletter would help with our costs and identify you with our noble efforts.

## AND NOT FORGETTING...

#### **THANKS TO:**

**LEVERN VALLEY PARTNERSHIP** and  
**NEILSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL** for start-up funding

**EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL** for encouragement and active support

**NESTA**, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, for start-up support for the project via Pauline Gallacher's fellowship.

NESTA  
LOGO

### **Join us today!**

**PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR NEILSTON: SPACE TO LIVE**

Name: ..... Tel: .....

Address: ..... e-mail: .....

..... Age (if under 18) .....

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

**Organisations I'm involved with** (e.g. Scouts, residents' assoc.)  
.....

I'd like to get involved in Space to Live, please contact me to discuss ☐

I enclose £1 membership (free if under 18) ☐

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Return to Shona Donnelly, Secretary, 30 Glen Falloch Crescent, Neilston

Copy date for next newsletter:  
**MID-OCTOBER**