

the SPACE



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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TAKE THE CREDIT, FOLKS! NDT brings banking back to Neilston

Believe it or not, people still come into the Bank occasionally, looking for banking services and it's always been one of our dreams to do something about that.

At last, NDT is launching a great new **Bankcard** savings scheme in collaboration with East Renfrewshire Credit Union (ERCU). In brief, we are looking to put the Bank back into Main Street by acting as a satellite office for ERCU, making it convenient for everyone in Neilston to save without having to travel. We are particularly keen to see children get into the savings habit, and we are working with local schools to promote this great new opportunity.

WHEN CAN WE SAVE AND HOW DOES THE BANKCARD WORK?

You can deposit twice per week (Wednesdays and Fridays) from 2pm - 4pm at the Bank, starting from Wed 15th April.

CASH INCENTIVES!

For first 300 joiners! Savers aged 17 or under who save £1 will have their savings boosted by 25p in the £ up to the first £20 saved (a bonus of £5). For adults: you get 20p in the £ up to your first £25 (a bonus of £5). ERCU is also waiving its £2 membership fee for Neilston locals joining our **Bankcard** scheme.

The bonus scheme will apply to new credit union members living in the Neilston-area (G78 3 postcodes) and our only condition is that you must leave your savings in your new credit union account for 26 weeks from the date of joining.

For more info on how Credit Unions operate, contact admin@neilstontrust.co.uk, visit www.ercu.coop, see enclosed info sheet or pop in to the Bank or ERCU offices.



STOP PRESS

FREE HOT CHOCOLATE TO YOUNG SAVERS WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR FIRST DEPOSIT!

MELA ON MAIN STREET

28TH MARCH 10AM - 1PM AT THE SHOPS AND PIG SQUARE

2014 and those wonderful Games may be long over, but the memories linger on: of special moments in the big event and of course our own Baton Relay day here in the village. But luckily for Neilston, NDT has received a small grant from Big Lottery 2014 Legacy to 'keep the glow going' with an event to celebrate Scotland's links with the international family of the Commonwealth. ERC was twinned with India for the year, so we're going for a MELA - a gathering, market, bazaar - think colour, food, music, people stirred into a big lively broth.



And in case you think this is a dreamt-up connection (which it largely is) there is a 'thread' that truly links us with the Indian subcontinent. Over the centuries the textile industry has 'woven' a series of complex trading and cultural ties back and forth between Neilston and India; the Paisley pattern being a good example of this east-west mingling. We've been working with artists, traders and local groups to put together a lively programme, including the Mount Everest Treasure Trail to celebrate Sir Chris Bonnington's 1975 Himalayan expedition wearing "Neilston Extra Strong" laces on his boots!



See enclosed flyer and see you there!

Sign up to our mailing list to receive regular updates at www.neilstontrust.co.uk



TRUST NEWS

NDT CREATES JOBS FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE

If you're around the Bank these days you'll have noticed fewer grey heads (some of my best friends...) and more funky hairdos (and that's just the boys).

'The future of a community is its young people' says Gordon Keenan, *'and getting started in worthwhile work should be everyone's birthright'*.

NDT has been making a big effort to offer such opportunities to the village's young people: some on the Community Jobs Scotland Scheme, others as volunteers, others as graduate interns. Although none of these posts can be permanent at the moment, there are useful skills to be acquired (and a bit of fun) in working in a small community-based organisation with such a varied bag of activities and projects.

Colin Monger lives in Neilston and has been working on the launch of the Bankcard among other things. **Heather McMurdo** is admin assistant. Two graduate interns, **Karen Hainey** and **Andrew Campbell** are looking at funding

applications (poor souls!). **Ross Lee** is a planning student, doing some volunteering. And last but by no means least, **Brian Weir** is our new Facilities Support Assistant.



Meet some of our young team.

GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

Volunteering is fun, but it also builds confidence and CVs. Several of our volunteers have progressed in this way.

Gillian McKinlay, for many years the Trust's admin officer, having been a volunteer, left us for a management position in Glasgow. Pat, our Monday cake-baking volunteer has taken a well earned break. We lost Linda Hood our Volunteer Manager - the eternal challenge of short term funding - but the volunteers continue to come forward thanks to the good networks established by Linda and her predecessors.

In November, Pauline Gallacher stepped back from full-time involvement, having worked with others for more than 10 years largely in a voluntary capacity.



Great fun at Gillian's farewell!

CAFE CHAT

VOLUNTEERS

New cafe volunteers have joined us in the past few weeks: Connor Branston, Christine Bowman and Lesley-Ann Paul are helping out in the café, and Brian Black has taken over from Pat Roan as our volunteer baker, providing a never-ending supply of goodies as well as occasional birthday cakes!

If anyone is interested in volunteering in the café for a few hours a week, please contact ursula.connolly@neilstontrust.co.uk and arrange to come in for a chat, or drop in when the café is open: Tues - Fri 11am - 3pm.

OFFER!

Sign up to the **Neilston Bankcard**, the Credit Union on your doorstep, and the Bank Café will offer you a **10% discount from your bill**. Join the Bankcard with a minimum deposit of £1, and make your purchase from 24th March to 2nd April inclusive.

Look out for other exclusive Bankcard holder offers in future.

HEALTHY LIVING CONTINUES!

The Café has worked hard in changing its menu and approach to play a part in changing Scotland's diet for the better. We've already hosted some mini health promotions including Love Your Liver Week, Breakfast Week and Heart Healthy, with new recipes, information and samples.

Look out for further health promotions coming soon.

EASTER CLOSING FOR CAFE

Please note last day of service before our Easter break will be Thurs 2nd April and re-open on Wed 15th April at 11am.

Happy Easter to all our customers from Café staff and volunteers.



THE BANK ACCOUNT

BIKE HUB - MAKING NEILSTON A CYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

In Copenhagen, they've got a traffic problem; we're not talking motorway congestion here, but the need to widen cycle lanes to cope with all the people wanting to get around by bike - in all weathers (Majorca it ain't). If we're not quite up there with Denmark yet, the Neilston Bike Hub and the commitment of volunteers and NDT staff has caught the eye of the head



And Granny came too!

hunchos of **Cycling Scotland**, who have chosen the village as one of four pilots to promote and showcase the benefits and joys of cycling, to our own community and others.

Active travel they call it - using your legs or two wheels to get you around. Very hip these days - and you DON'T have to wear Lycra. So get hip, healthy

and happy: see what we're up to at the Mela, drop into the Hub for a chat or visit www.cycleneilston.co.uk.

Look out for the new **FIXSTATION**, **BIKE PUMPS** and **RACKS** around the village, to be unveiled at the Mela. **Neilston is serious about cycling!**

AFTER SCHOOL BIKE CLUB

TUES 3RD - 31ST MARCH, 10AM - 4PM
MEET IN PLAYGROUND AT ST THOMAS' PRIMARY

The Bank Bike Hub is offering pupils, Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers and their children an opportunity to take part in an **After School Cycle Club** to help you improve your cycle skills and to cycle as a family.

Don't miss out on this first ever programme of free, off-road cycle training and gentle cycle rides to get you back on the saddle with confidence.

Bikes and helmets available for use (advance notice needed if these are required call 0141 561 1201).

NB you can join in at any point in series; you don't have to attend all of the dates.



PHOTO GROUP

Sometimes a newcomer to the village brings fresh perspective and energy. Malcolm Briggs saw a gap and jumped to fill it. Now into its second series of 5 sessions, and miraculously engaging both rookies and serious photographers, Malcolm, an experienced professional and teacher, is giving his time freely to introduce us to the mysteries of this most accessible of art forms.

You'll see us out and about doing a live workshop at the Mela (we'll be the ones footering with tripods and lenses as the youngsters catch all the action on their phones!).

For details of future courses, drop Malcolm an email at neilstonphoto@gmail.com



A couple of brilliant shots; we do duds as well, so don't be shy!

UKULELE NOW ON TUESDAYS!

UKE
TUES

The Neilston Ukulele Group welcomes complete beginners. The classes are fortnightly and are **now meeting on Tuesdays 7pm - 8pm** and the next class is 10th March.

Costs £5 adults/£3 under 16s.

The uke is a brilliant instrument for people who have no musical experience and the class provides a fun and informal place to learn. Instruments available to use.

The **group also meets every Friday morning at the Bank from 11am** for a free drop in session.

Come and join us for a song or to find out more; no strings attached!

NEILSTON ARTISTS

Still time to catch the great exhibition of local artists at the Bank - an amazing and varied display of local talent. On the look-out for a special gift? Worth a visit!

HUB SPRING OPENING HOURS

OPEN ON SAT AND MON 10AM - 12PM
FOR REPAIRS, HIRES, BIKE SALES AND ENQUIRIES.

To find out more about our services and bikes for sale visit us at www.cycleneilston.co.uk, call 0141 561 1201, drop by the Hub, contact us at admin@neilstontrust.co.uk or drop by the Bank, Mon - Fri 9am -5pm.



MORE!

COMING IN, GOING OUT...

A bunch of **visitors from South Korea** came to see what we're up to. They liked the idea of the **Bankcard!**



An NDT Board member has been **elected Convenor of the Scottish Community Alliance**, (SCA) an umbrella body for all the community-based organisations (Community Transport, Community Energy, Community Food etc). SCA recently met with the new Communities Minister.

A speaker from NDT recently addressed the all-Ireland Renewable Energy Summit and members of the NDT team attended Local Energy Scotland's national conference.

Laura Carswell met other reps from Scotland's Cycle friendly communities in Kingussie. Laura says **"It was great to see what other places are up to. But Neilston is the only lowland, commuter village; we have different challenges. But we're going for it!"**

Further to the Café achieving the Healthy Living Award in December, our Café Manager, Ursula Connelly recently attended the **Healthy Living Awards Annual Ceremony**.

Welcome back to **Neilston and Uplawmoor First Responders**, who now have more a little more space to house their expanding operation.



The Bank is getting busier and busier, so if you want to **hire a space** for a meeting or function, make sure to get in touch as well ahead as possible.

LOCAL PRODUCE

Locally grown produce now available direct from the Locavore Neilston Community Market Garden.

Great value and healthful, mostly organic, veg boxes can be collected or delivered directly to your door every week.

Visit www.facebook.com/GlasgowLocavore to find out more or drop into the Bank to pick up a subscription form.

Come along and see Locavore at the MELA!



VILLAGE NEWS

TOWN CHARTER

The formal consultation on the Local Plan Supplementary Guidance (SPG) on Neilston's 'Infill Strategy' has come to an end.

This covered the various outputs from the in-depth process last year, which in turn produced the 'Going Places' report. **It's probably a first for Scotland that a programme of work arising out of community debate and professional support is being presented for inclusion in official planning documents.** See www.neilstontrust.co.uk/what-we-do/town-charter/neilston-going-places.html

Now all we have to do is deliver, with councils cutting back on all sides and funders overwhelmed with applications. So it won't be an overnight transformation.



It's goodbye and good luck to Danny McKendry. Danny has been our main contact at ERC on the planning and regeneration side and has been an enthusiastic champion of the Charter process from the outset. His commitment to Neilston and building effective partnerships has been essential to our progress. Thanks Danny! Keep in touch and see how we're doing!

MURDOCHS FIX IT FOR NEILSTON

The generosity of local firm J&M Murdoch to village organisations is already well known. Here's another way they are keeping it local. Landfill Tax is the payment operators such as J&M Murdoch pay through to government. These funds can however be routed back to communities as Credits and NDT has met the qualification criteria to be the vehicle for this relationship. The funds have to be used for registered environmental projects around the village.



More detail on the projects (and we do need a pic of a giant cheque!) next issue.

NEILSTON WAR MEMORIAL

Congratulations to the War Memorial Group, on their ground-breaking ceremony recently.

Pictures and story in next issue.



NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST
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EAST RENFREWSHIRE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE
PARTNERSHIP



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