

the SPACE



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

No 21 | Jan/Feb 2014

Each New Year presents a challenge, (not least for the person who has to find something new to write!) Resolutions, looking back, new beginnings, shoots of hope amid the economic gloom; hard to find a new way to skin this particular cat. And yet 2014 is a year worth taking a look at as we head off into January.



REMEMBERING OUR PAST

The date 1914 will forever be associated with WW1 and 2014 will certainly be a year for remembering the tragic losses of that war and all conflicts since. The Neilston War Memorial team is well into the process of commissioning a monument, which it is hoped will be in place by the end of the year. A recent very successful

fundraiser shows how working together, even on a serious subject, has its lighter side! Designs out for consultation soon. Could this be the next Charter project to be delivered?

CELEBRATING OUR NOW!

2014 promises to be a momentous year for Scotland. The Commonwealth Games are shaping up to be a celebration of all that's good about being a part of an international community. The elite sportsmen and women will come and go, but there's a bigger message about us all getting more active and improving our physical and mental wellbeing. Here in Neilston we'll be doing our bit - we may not have a Velodrome but we do have the Bike Hub and walking groups and our reopened pool, with big conversations coming up about sport and people spaces in the village. **See Bike Hub news Pg 3 and Charter Alert Pg 2.**



Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome

SHAPING SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

As the Referendum Yes/No campaign heats up, chances are we'll get debate fatigue; how many talking heads can we take? How about a live, local gathering to discuss the issues in a non-party political way? We're hoping to be able to bring such an event to Neilston sometime in the next few months. Whatever the outcome, Scotland will have debated its future as never before, and that's a good thing for democracy.



Holyrood may be the HQ, but let's party on the streets too!

SHAPING NEILSTON'S FUTURE

This month sees the 10th birthday of Space to Live/NDT. What's happened since January 2004? Festivals, the Bank and Café, volunteering, heritage work, the windfarm, the Charter, the Bike Hub, and growing - both plants AND partnerships. So what? Well, it looks like Neilston people, working together with elected members, officers and local organisations are beginning to change the way the village looks and works. The Big Neilston Tidy-up (Pg 2) makes the point. It's been a long journey, but good things don't happen overnight. Next chapter begins soon with a big programme of real plan-making; down to the 'what will go where, and how?' questions. **See Charter Alert Pg 2.**



The Big Bank Vote



Neilston LIVE! Festival Pipers



Community Windfarm

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

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BIG NEILSTON TIDY UP

The big idea here was a simple one. We wanted to inspire people to get involved in their community.

Organisations and people in the village came together to make a difference: 7 local organisations and over 80 people were involved in the clean up – 60 bags of rubbish removed in under 2 hours! The biggest amount of rubbish was taken from Gleniffer View. 500 bulbs were planted at the Robertson Memorial.

Then back to the Bank for soup and snacks and lots of chat, with the uke group doing its best to be heard above the hubbub.



What a lovely worm!



Anyone for Chutney?



The Plant swap was a great success

One of the things we hear most often is that people don't know what's going on, so we really wanted to increase awareness of just how much happens locally, as well as showcasing organisations operating and providing services in the village.

The feedback was great! 72% of attendees said they knew more about local organisations, and 75% knew more about village services and activities, whilst 80% said they were more likely to get involved in future activities locally as a result of the day.

WATCH OUT!

Inspired by this event, next up we're going to tackle everyone's pet hate (no pun intended) - dog pool!



This guy means business!



Send for the A-team!

CHARTER ALERT

Something significant has happened, although you won't have noticed; at last we have a way of running the Charter process.

The **Charter Advisory Group** members are drawn from representative bodies including councillors, key ERC departments, Barrhead Housing Association, Voluntary Action, NDT and the Community Council. There are still some places for community organisations and these are being contacted to seek representation.

The Advisory Group will ensure that Charter projects are developed and delivered in a coordinated and quality way. One of its key responsibilities is to ensure excellent communication and engagement with the whole community. Charter Working Groups are being set up to carry forward the detailed development of 3 areas: **Village Centre, Community and Leisure, and Economy and Sustainability.**

More of all this very soon, but if you have a passionate interest in any of these topics, we'll be looking for committed individuals who want to participate in this way. But no worries if this isn't your style. There will be plenty more ways to feed into the conversation. You won't miss them!

LEISURE CENTRE

User feedback and swimming attendances at the reopened Neilston Leisure Centre have been encouraging. An options appraisal on longer term developments carried out for the Council by consultants recommended an option for a refurbished leisure centre with co-located library and the creation of new multi purpose space, costing in the region of £1.3 million (today's prices).

At a stakeholders meeting organised by ERC in Glen Halls on 30 October, attendees generally welcomed the Council's long-term commitment towards the Leisure Centre. However, there was no consensus reached regarding a preferred option.

Council officers present committed to a continuing dialogue with the local community to develop a detailed and well-founded proposal for the future of Neilston Leisure Centre in the context of the overall plans for village regeneration via the Neilston Charter. It was however made clear that there was no guarantee that capital funding would be available to deliver any preferred option, as this would need to be considered within a challenging financial climate and balanced against other Council priorities.

- Kerr Melville Area Sports Services Manager ERC

SEE BACK PAGE FOR FULL LEISURE CENTRE PROGRAMME INFO



THE BANK ACCOUNT

BANK CAFE

The Bank Café's back with a bang after the holidays, with staff and volunteers refreshed and ready, as always, to serve you with a smile. The menu has been tweaked a little to provide traditional and slightly more adventurous flavours. Something delicious and healthy for everyone, with glorious homebaking to supply that little cheer we all need at this time of year! Look out for 'themed specials' (Ed: Just enjoyed a roasted pepper and feta savoury, Middle Eastern style – yum!)

More and more families and small groups are finding that the Café is a great place for birthday parties and the like. Exciting party food options available soon - keep your eyes peeled!

**Café hours: 10.30am - 3.00pm,
Tuesday to Friday.
Closed Saturday to Monday**



Bank customers getting younger every day!

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Qualified solicitor Graham Sykes is now offering legal advice at the Bank. Whether you have any problems with Debt, Divorce or Benefit issues, Graham will be happy to offer an initial meeting without charge. General advice will also be available on Wills, Powers of Attorney and House purchase and sale matters.



Graham Sykes

CLINIC EVERY FRIDAY 11AM-12PM.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Graham directly on **07977 260 837**.

BIKE HUB NEWS

The Bank Bike Hub is still keeping Richard and our team of volunteers busy, with bikes still being checked in for repair.

The September series of Cycling Maintenance workshops went well, with 100% thumbs-up rating for this service and the Hub generally.

"I'm very pleased to have found a locally led cycling maintenance workshop. It fitted with my ethos... that local people can pass on skills..that it can be informal...that the cost can be low...that it's not rocket science..I loved the fact that it was held in the bank...and with the tea and coffee feel...I have always used my bike, but never felt confident on the repair side."

Building on this success, plans for the Bike Hub 2014 are under way, with continued support to children and staff in our local schools as they embark on their Bikeability training.

We're also aiming to improve on our service to the public, with two more volunteers having completed Mechanics training. Congratulations to Claire and John, now able to help Richard and Keith get us "geared" up for the spring.

But it's not all hard work! Our cycle volunteers have been checking out good rides (usually to places selling good coffee and cake!) round about Neilston and are aiming to make those routes available on-line and at the Bike Hub. Hire and repair services available over the winter by arrangement.



Bike maintenance sessions

UKULELE FEVER GRIPS NEILSTON!

New Uke Group: Wednesdays 7-8pm

Such has been the popularity of our ukulele group that we are running another class for complete beginners in the New Year. No musical skills required, just a sense of fun and enjoyment!



No venue too raucous for our Ukes!

Instruments provided.

£5 adults/£3 U 16s. All welcome.

P.S. The "Friday Ukers" meet in the Bank for an informal session on Friday mornings from 10.30am (free). Come and hear for yourself!

WINTER WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUPS

Our intrepid Wednesday Walkers are still stepping out from the Bank every week.

**Long walk (60-90 minutes) 10am or
Short walk (20-30 mins) 10.30am**

Come along and enjoy a walk, some good company, and keep yourself active and well over the winter. Stay for a cuppa and natter. All welcome.

THE BANK ACCOUNT (CONT..)

VOLUNTEERS

The Christmas event at The Traveller's Rest gave 35+ NDT volunteers, staff and board members a chance to make new acquaintances, and an opportunity for NDT to say thank you for the fantastic contribution volunteers make in every aspect of the Trust's work. The Christmas Quiz proved that the spirit of healthy competition is alive and well in Neilston!



NDT revellers at the Travellers Rest

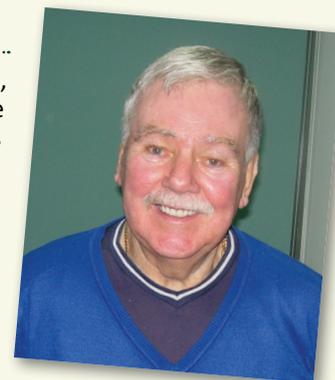


FOOD BANK
DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT
THE BANK. REFERRALS TOO.

CHEERIO TO PHIL!

Since the Bank refurbishment, we have all profited from the presence of Phil Mack, who has kept the building in the pristine condition in which you find it.

Sadly for us, Phil has decided that he'd like more time to spend with Katie and the family (can't be his age - him a youngster of 27!). Thanks to Phil for his unfailing cheerfulness, endless supply of stories, and those snatches of songs from way back when. We look forward to seeing you back at the Bank as our new kid on the block in the Uke Group!



All the best, Phil!

NEILSTON VOCAL GROUP

Watch out for more information in upcoming editions of the newsletter on the Vocal Group relaunch, scheduled for the New Year.

For more information on all Bank activities including the Bike Hub; call 0141 561 1201, email admin@neilstontrust.co.uk or drop by Mondays-Fridays 9-5pm.

NEILSTON LEISURE CENTRE PROGRAMME

Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons at Neilston Leisure Centre now up and running.

Little Splashers Classes (first come first served!)

Tuesdays from 21st January 9.30am – 10.15am.

Children's Aqua Zone Classes

Tuesdays from 8th January 6.45pm - 7.45pm.

Fun aquatic activities (Min age 8 years, must be able to swim 50m)

To reserve a place please contact Andrew Wishart - 0141 577 4833 or andrew.wishart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.

Aqua Aerobics - Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

If you fancy a class that makes you work hard with very little impact on the joints, this one is definitely for you! Look out for news of daytime classes.

SWIMMING POOL OPENING HOURS

(Subject to change during school and public holidays)

Monday	Public Swimming 9.00am- 12 noon & 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Tuesday	Public Swimming 7.30am - 12 noon & 6.45pm - 7.45pm Adults only 7.45pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday	Public Swimming 9.00am - 3.00pm & 6.00pm - 8.15pm
Thursday	Public Swimming 7.30am - 12 noon
Friday	Public Swimming 9.00am - 12 noon Fun Session 6.15pm - 7.15pm Adults only 7.30pm - 8.40pm
Saturday	No Public Swimming
Sunday	Public Swimming 9.00am - 12 noon



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EAST RENFREWSHIRE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE
PARTNERSHIP

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