

the SPACE



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

No 12 | Nov 2011

THE bank is back!

JOIN US

TASTY TREATS

MUSIC & SONG

SURPRISES!

SATURDAY
3RD
DECEMBER
2-4pm

After nearly a year of being out of action, we are absolutely delighted that the Bank will be reopening its doors in December. To get us off to a great start, we will be hosting a housewarming party on Saturday 3rd December between 2pm and 4pm. Given the date, you may not be surprised to find that there will be a bit of a festive theme!

The event is FREE so please do pop along for a nosey, some delicious grub and to join in with the singing!

In the run up to the opening, we will be working with artists, musicians and community groups to produce a lovely afternoon of food, crafts, arts and singing.

For further information on getting involved with any activities or on the day itself please phone 0141 561 1201 or email laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk



MUCH MORE INSIDE!

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS FOLLOW US
NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST



BANKING ON NEILSTON

Wouldn't it be great if we had photos of the original opening of the bank at the turn of the 20th century? A great moment locally, to have such a fine building on the Main Street. A big investment for the Clydesdale Bank, too, reflecting the amount of commercial activity then going on in the village, with the recent big expansion at the mill and the new terraces at Holehouse housing a growing population.

And now, in 2011, the Bank is due to open once again, this time owned by the people of Neilston, not an external business interest. What does that stand for? And how is Neilston doing, a century on from its industrial heyday? A much bigger place, but with no physical banking service. A better standard of living, but little local employment. Education for all, but many young people lacking work and hope. Modern communications all around, but isolation for many, especially older residents. Change everywhere, worldwide and local. And from what we hear, a hard road ahead, as prices soar and belts tighten.

Five years ago, the Bank was won for Neilston. We didn't buy it for NDT; a certified, public ballot demonstrated that people wanted this building to be owned by the community for the community. Since then, and largely on volunteer effort, it has been made available for anyone who wanted it. The cafe has welcomed people and clubs and events of all kinds have taken place there.

Now we have completed the improvement work and are ready to throw open the doors again. Grant makers have invested in us and our building – it should be sound for another 100 years and more. So now it needs another kind of investment - by its

new owners - that's you! Come in and see the place, have a coffee, tell us what you think of your new property. The name on the title deeds is NDT, but we are simply the custodians of this wonderful new resource. Think about joining the Trust at this moment of change and help to shape its future. Use the building for your club or business or social events. Think about giving even a couple of hours a month to support the Bank programme. There are loads of ways to do this and lots of fun to be had. If you don't think we're getting it right, tell us. But don't stand outside. **Old friend or newcomer - COME ON IN!**



Clydesdale Bank, Neilston

The Bank: A village institution saved for the next century and given a new purpose



CABINET SECRETARY VISIT

Neilston is on the radar of Scottish Government. We have hosted politicians of all persuasions and it's good to see such cross-party support for what we're doing. We're delighted that Alex Neil MSP, now Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital investment is to celebrate the opening of the building with us on the morning of **Tuesday 13th December**.

Mr Neil has visited the Trust before and has written that he is "deeply impressed by the work you have done in Neilston, and for your constructive and helpful engagement so far in the discussions on Building a Sustainable Future." He has promised that his officials "will continue to ensure that the voice of the Development Trust movement is heard and is influential as we develop the (Regeneration) Strategy and the (Community Empowerment and Renewal) Bill."



Alex Neil MSP

THE BANK CAFE

Open 5 days per week 10am - 2.30pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

NOTE: Café closed on **Wednesdays** to accommodate community events, but **OPEN on Saturdays** to welcome new weekend customers!

THE BANK BUILDING

Various spaces will be available to hire from 9am - 9pm weekdays and by arrangements at the weekend, with special rates for Neilston residents.

We are keen to know if this is what people want - maybe we would be better opening on a Sunday? Or earlier in the morning? Let us know!

The Bank funders



THE BANK IS A PROJECT OF
NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST



JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS!

SINGERS WANTED!

To mark the momentous occasion of the Bank opening, we are organising a number of creative events to involve the people of Neilston and friends in making and sharing in the fun through arts, music and food.

We are looking for people of all ages and abilities to join with us in these celebrations and in particular, helping us celebrate through song. We are working with existing choirs from both local churches and primary schools groups to put together the Neilston all-star community choir to perform especially for the event. We will also be holding public choir rehearsals so please come and join us. No prior experience or demonstrable singing ability is required: just an enthusiasm for standing outside in the cold and belting out a tune or two!

If you would like to take part in the choir, have some fun singing music from Mozart to Abba, come and join us. All welcome!



Rehearsals take place at the Bank on:

Tues 15th Nov 7-9pm

Tues 22 Nov 7-9pm

Sat 26th Nov 2-4pm

Please contact Laura Carswell on 0141 561 1201 or email laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk for more information.

If the newsletter doesn't reach you in time for 15th, see you on 22nd!

ANYONE FOR CAFÉ?

The opening will also be the opportunity for our cafe manager, Sara, and cafe volunteers to test out our new cooking facilities for the first time, as they will be providing a glorious winter feast for us.

Sara in the new kitchen - nearly there!



I ♥ NEILSTON!

HEARTS AND CRAFTS WORKSHOP

If you are free on **Saturday 19th November between 2-4pm**, there will be an arts workshop taking place at The Bank to make decorations for the opening of the Bank.

The workshop is open to all ages and is free.



WHAT'S IN THE BOX

So just exactly what has been going on behind all that scaffolding since January and what difference will it make?

CHANGES OUTSIDE

Much better disabled access, large front and rear patio areas for summer days, and planting areas for the gardening club to be creative! The much loved rowan trees (which were actually rotten) will be replaced with a healthy new tree, And of course, the kitchen garden to the rear (see garden club page 7)

CHANGES INSIDE

WONDERFUL SPACES - need a smart room for the occasional business meeting or for your community organisation? Contact Gillian on 561 1201

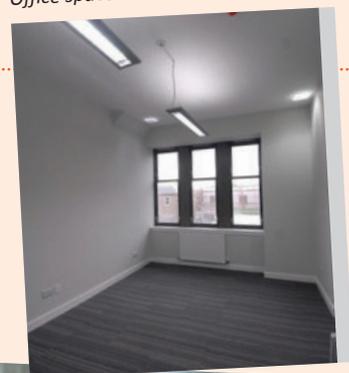
HEAT! Underfloor heating downstairs, provided by our wood pellet boiler, and top-notch insulation. Lower bills, much lower carbon and much cosier toes!

OFFICE PROVISION The bank has several rooms upstairs (with lift access and wifi connection) ideal for small business use.

INFO POINT Pop into the Bank and be sure to find out ALL that's going on Neilston-wise. Make sure your organisation keeps us in the loop and we'll do the rest.

AND - PAID OFFICERS with a remit to support developing relationships/ make the facility sustainable/ help with project development. Volunteers still working flat-out on all the other bits!

Office space



Our wood pellet boiler, for toasty toes!

WHAT'S ON AT THE BANK

LEGAL SERVICES RETURN TO VILLAGE...

In response to a dearth of legal aid law firms in the area, Harold W Joseph, a solicitor of 35 years' standing, is extending his highly regarded practice into Neilston.

Specialising in civil court work, the firm's new Neilston office at the Bank will be ideally placed to handle a range of legal

“The Neilston office will be primarily run by solicitor Sharon Louise Collins, from Neilston, with the assistance of trainee solicitor Emma Nicholson, from Barrhead”

problems, including family law, employment disputes, housing problems, personal injury claims, medical negligence, guardianships and powers of attorney, amongst others. Due to a wide range of contacts, the firm can also make

referrals to highly esteemed solicitors in matters including conveyancing and criminal law. Our locally based staff will totally professional.

SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE:
EVERY FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM (from 6th Jan)
EVERY SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM (from 7th Jan)

DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT IDEA?

Have you always wanted to set up a local chess club? Or would you like to see a yoga class or learn Italian conversation (or yoga IN Italian)?

If you have an idea for an activity or project that either you would like to set up, or you would like to see happening in the village, come and tell us about it.

The Bank is there to respond to and support what people in the village want – and the only way we will know what that is, is if you tell us! We might be able to support you by giving you desk space so that you can research and plan your ideas, or help you with marketing or identifying funding, or we might be able to point you in the direction of other agencies who can offer support.

CALLING ALL BARRHEAD HA TENANTS

**ROAD SHOW AT THE BANK
- SEE PAGE 10**

PILATES WEDNESDAYS

The Bank will be hosting a Pilates Class on Wednesday evenings (7-8pm) starting 18th January.

The class, which is suitable for beginners, will be delivered by Karen Bryson, a Pilates Foundation qualified instructor and will be limited in size to 8-10 people ensuring participants get one-to-one support as needed.

Costs to be £45 for a six week block. If you would like to find out more or to book a place please email kbpilates@btinternet.com or call 0141 561 1201.



Ok we know it's not Pilates, but remember the yoga days at The Bank?!

GOT WINTER BLUES?



Peace and Beauty, the new therapy room at the Bank offers relaxing aromatherapy treatments to soothe mind and body.

To book an appointment for December please phone Linda McLaughlin on 07549 143 378.

Linda McLaughlin

VOLUNTARY ACTION FREE DROP IN SESSIONS

Community organisations and volunteers in Neilston and the surrounding areas can now take advantage of **free weekly drop-in advice sessions** for new and existing groups; reviewing constitutions, sourcing funding, and keeping good financial records. Advice on volunteering will also be on offer.

The sessions are run by the **Rural Outreach Team** from Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire, and will take place at The Bank, **every Tuesday from 2pm – 4pm starting 6th December**. Pop in and find out more about the project;

The Project has European funding from LEADER, distributed as part of the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP)

Further information from Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire on 0141 876 9555 or e-mail Peter.mcgee@va-er.org.uk or Angharad.balch@va-er.org.uk

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEERING – NEILSTON NEEDS YOU!

Much of the success of the Trust to date is down to the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers who have selflessly given their time over the years. This has included everything from helping out at events, to baking cakes, to filling out application forms for funding. There is no doubt that the Trust would not be where it is today without this help.

However, volunteering is not a one way street – feedback from our volunteers over the years tells us that volunteering is also a great way to get out of the house, make new friends, learn new skills and to give something back to the community.

With the renovation of the Bank this year, our volunteering team has been a bit quieter than usual, but that is all about to change! There will be lots of ways to get involved and help us out including cooking, serving in the cafe, gardening, helping

out at events, community clean ups. If you have even a couple of hours a month to spare, let us know as that will make a huge contribution to our work. Oh, and volunteering entitles you to a discount in the cafe too!

Details of specific bits of help you can give us will be posted on our website and facebook page, as well as in The Bank. If you would like more information, please phone 0141 561 1201 or email anne.macdonald@neilstontrust.co.uk



NEILSTON CONVERSATION

This research project trained local volunteers to interview a small number of people in the over 60s age groups with a view to understanding what people wanted from their lives and how well they felt supported in whatever needs they had.

A report is now with the Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) and a summary document will soon be up on our website and available to those who helped with the work. This is feeding into an ongoing discussion with the CHCP as to how the Bank facility can be made most useful for older people and how as a community we can support this age group.



DONATIONS!

We are looking for some very specific pieces of equipment to help us get the Bank and the gardens up and running. If you have any of the following lurking in the back of your cupboard/attic, we would be delighted to take them off your hands. Anything we don't use, we will pass down to Reuse-It in Barrhead.

- Gardening equipment: tools, gloves, plant pots, planters, seed trays, gardening books, garden sheds, cold frames
- Tea pots, sugar bowls, milk jugs, salt and pepper shakers
- Cake stands/serving dishes

Smaller items can be dropped off at the bank from 11th November onwards, or call us to arrange pick up of larger items on 0141 561 1201.

Don't forget to fill out the questionnaire on the back page!

FEEDBACK

How are we doing? Make a comment - have a coffee!

We are always keen to get feedback on what we are doing – and maybe what we are not doing that we should be! If you don't like something we are doing – or think we could be doing it better – let us know!

Similarly, let us know if there is something we are doing that you do like – it is great to hear that too! Comment cards will be available in the Bank to fill out, or feel free to contact the Bank Development Manager, Linda Macdonald on 0141 561 1201.

We are really keen to know what the best way is for us to let people know what we are doing – and what the best way is for people to feedback to us.

So, we have included a questionnaire on the back page of the newsletter with a range of questions about how we communicate. If you have the time to fill it in, not only will you be helping us out a lot, but you will earn yourself a free hot drink at The Bank cafe and the chance to win a prize.



NEILSTON LIVE

WWW.CROFHEADCONCERTS.CO.UK

CROFHEAD CONCERTS

The Crofhead Concerts have "bowed off" to a great 2011-12 season of music at the Crofhead Bowling Club. The new season was launched in August with a knockout performance by the well travelled and highly regarded Virginian band the Hot Seats, combining bluegrass, Appalachian old time, ragtime and rock and roll. September's sell-out by local hero Lou Hickey and Band was a joy for all, thrilled to have the rising star of quirky jazz and burlesque glamour and retro pop playing to an adoring home audience. The season continued with a fabulous night of country, blues, and rock n roll with Mary Jean Lewis & the Low Men on 29th October.

The upcoming gig by Cahalen Morrison and Eli West on Saturday 19th November is one not to be missed. Both musicians are multi-instrumentalists equally at home playing fingerstyle guitar, lap slide, mandolin

and clawhammer banjo. Allan McDougall concert organizer, says *"When people talk about the music of Cahalen Morrison and Eli West, terms such as gorgeous, amazing, gentle, lush, sophisticated, soulful, organic and earthy get bandied around"*. Invited by Bob Harris into the studio to record a session for his BBC Radio 2 show and by Mary Ann Kennedy to appear on her World on 3 show on BBC Radio 3, we expect this show to be another sell-out. More information on this and upcoming gigs on www.crofheadconcerts.co.uk or contact admin@crofheadconcerts.co.uk

Tickets will be available from tickets-scotland.com Foresight Opticians, Main Street and Kool Kreations, Cross Arthurlie Street, Barrhead or contact us at The Bank 0141 561 1201.



WISH I'D LEARNED TO PLAY THE...

NDT recently obtained some funding to support local interest and opportunities to enjoy and to learn about traditional and acoustic music.

A pilot programme of tuition and musical sessions starts soon at the Bank, beginning at the opening party on **3rd December** with performances from some local musicians and performers, young and old(er).

If you would like to find out more, come to the opening event 3 December, 2-4pm or contact Laura Carswell on 0141 561 1201 laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk for more information.



LAST OF THE SUMMER WALKS...

East Renfrewshire Council launched its first walking festival this autumn and Neilston rose to the occasion.

The Trust led two walks during the event: a wildlife walk round the Pad led by volunteer **Davey McLaughlin** and a country walk round the back roads of Neilston to Cowden Hall by volunteer **George Rowan**. **Keith Fergus**, author of East Renfrewshire Walks, conducted a talk on walks in East Renfrewshire in the community library and also led walkers on a lively jaunt to the Craigie (and, we hope, back). The Eastwood Ramblers took the high road to the Pad. We look forward to next year's festival and having more people out for the fresh air and fun.

Walk to Cowden Hall



THE BACK OF THE BANK GARDENING CLUB

The Back of the Bank Gardening Club came into business August 2010, developing out of the good work of the Powerdown programme and the interests expressed by the community in learning more about the skills and delights of gardening and the opportunities for producing food in our gardens.

Flourishing under the direction of NDT's gardening volunteer George Rowan, a dedicated group of 30 keen gardeners and gardening novices have since enjoyed a full and ambitious programme of activities, learning to expand their skills, confidence and ambitions in their own gardens.

Amongst the many activities enjoyed, the group have planted spring bulbs, made bird boxes for visiting swallows and swifts, learned the joys of rearing

hens, and picked up tips on how to get your garden off to an early start for next season. The hard work was lightened by visits to community gardens nearby, where we made new friends and picked up ideas to bring back to Neilston.

Speaking on site recently George said "It is going to be really great to get back in and get our hands dirty again. We

"It is going to be really great to get back in and get our hands dirty again"

are getting back an empty bit of land so the opportunities in terms of what we decide to do on the site are enormous. We want to grow vegetables and flowers for the cafe,

and to make it a beautiful and interesting place to sit in for visitors to the Bank. Of course, we will also be looking at ways to make the gardens as environmentally sustainable as possible, so we will be building compost bins and looking at things like recycling rain water".

With The Bank now re-opening, the hope is that the gardening club can expand and that we might also be able to do a weekend group and make some of the sessions easier for families to access. First off, we are hoping to hold a planning day early in the New Year to look at what the layout for the gardens will be". And once the Back of the Bank is flourishing, who knows what wider plans may emerge, for local food production in the village? Avoiding all mention of large oaks and little acorns - let's just get growing!

The Gardening Club will be on site at the Bank opening party Saturday 3rd December. Or contact Laura Carswell at laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk or call 0141 561 1202 for more information.

The Club would like to thank Go Greener who provided the club with a generous collection of compost, seed potatoes and pop-up bags. The spuds were delicious and did well in Neilston. Thank you!



At Girvan Community Garden



The Gardening Club



Pop up peas



Reaping the rewards, Spud-licious

COWDEN HALL MATTERS! PATH TIDY UP – VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Exactly a year ago, you might have had the good fortune to meet community researchers asking questions on your use of the much loved Cowden Hall Estate, and your views on its future. Following on from the insights gained from this project ([see www.cowdenhall.org.uk](http://www.cowdenhall.org.uk) for more information), NDT, in association with the Estate's owners and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), have obtained a small amount of funding to support some basic path maintenance during November.

The path work will be led by BTCV, and we hope to involve as many local people in the work as is possible to work alongside visiting

volunteers who give their time regularly to support work such as this (Thanks, folks!)

The Clean-up dates are: Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th, Monday 21st at 10.15am-3pm and Sunday 27th November 10.30am-3pm.

Volunteers should meet at the bottom of Uplawmoor Rd (at the bridge) for 10.15am on the week days and for 10.30am on the Sunday. Come for a couple of hours or stay for the full session (bring your own lunch and a drink if your staying).

For more info contact Laura Carswell at laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk or at The Bank 0141 561 1201.



NEILSTON DEVELOPMENTS

NEILSTON COMMUNITY WINDFARM

Q: WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A: If it all seems quiet on windfarm front, we haven't gone away. With planning permission in place, a huge amount of pre-contract work has to be done: grid connections finalised, wayleaves negotiated, Power Purchase Agreements put in place, construction tenders put out and turbines bought. Thankfully most of these mysterious-sounding processes are being undertaken by our commercial partners. One of the attractions of our joint venture model is that we have such technical expertise in the partnership.

Q: SO DO WE JUST SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR THE MONEY TO ROLL INTO OUR COMMUNITY?

A: Unfortunately, no. Here's how it works. In exchange for the benefits, NDT has opportunity to invest up to 49.9% of the whole project costs of around £15m. 80% of this will be covered by a loan from the bank over the whole project (the 'project finance'), leaving NDT to find half of the shortfall. Essentially that means us borrowing up to 5% of the total project costs as our share of that

shortfall (our 'equity contribution'). In round terms, this means finding a loan of around £1.5m. At a time of reluctance on the part of banks to lend on most things, we are still confident that the return on investment will bring lenders to the table. We'll keep you in touch with developments.

Q: WHEN WILL WORK START?

A: All being well, work will likely start around February time and will take until about October.

Q: WILL THE VILLAGE BE AFFECTED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD?

A: There will be a slight increase in traffic along the Kingston road during the construction period but this will be relatively light. In addition there will also be temporary roadworks in the village around the cross, where some street furniture needs to be repositioned to allow delivery of the turbines. Scottish Power will also be undertaking road works which are necessary to allow the wind farm to connect to the national grid.

Q: AND WHEN WILL THE MONEY START TO COME IN?

A: We expect to be operational in October 2012, with funds coming through in 2013/14.

Q: HOW ARE THE PROFITS GOING TO BE INVESTED?

A: Back in 2009, when NDT first proposed the windfarm to the Town Team, we made a pledge to create a Common Good Fund, which would help to deliver the aspirations of the Town Charter. That pledge still holds and once we have put together the project finance (see above), we'll have a year's construction period during which we can consult and consider how best to structure the Common Good Fund as an arm's length trust which is fair, transparent and well governed. This won't be undertaken lightly, and we'll be working hard to ensure that the best possible arrangements are put in place, and that everyone understands what the fund for and how to access it.

Don't forget to fill out the questionnaire on the back page!

TOWN TEAM AND VILLAGE CHARTER

Although much has been going on (the Village Infill workshop and strategy, the windfarm and the Powerdown carbon reduction programme, there's a need to make more visible change. The Town Team Core group has identified the School Gates project as a key initiative to involve the whole village and create a sense of real and useful improvement getting delivered on the ground. The traffic congestion and the generally poor environment around all the school gates, and the fact they are important village gathering points, make this project a great one for the whole village to get involved in. Funding applications for development and feasibility work is in preparation for submission in early December.

PLEASE NOTE *nothing has been committed to - the application is precisely to scope possibilities and support active local debate on the best way to create good social spaces and safe pedestrian movement at and between the 3 school gates.*



The school gates, now - traffic mayhem!



The school gates - how it could be?

TRUST YOUNG PEOPLE



Ally McCrae, BBC Radio DJ and local resident

Ask anyone what Neilston needs most and the answer's likely to be; "activities for our young people" (with Zero Tolerance on Dog Fouling vying for top place).

So here and now, in print, we're making a start. We hope this **Trust Young People** page will provide space in the Space for our young citizens to make their own. We're also on Facebook and so to be on Twitter. Creating a page for young people is a small gesture. Much better would be younger people taking a role within NDT. Watch this space in future issues to see how we might take that forward. Better still, get in on the ground floor and take the lead.

For starters, meet our local guest editor, Claire Hutchison, a 5th year student at Eastwood High, who teamed up with one of Neilston's tribe of stellar musicians to hear about just how fame (not sure about fortune) came to Ally McCrae.

Claire Hutchison writes:

Ally McCrae is living proof that you can come from a small town and still make it big. After Neilston Primary and Eastwood High School, Ally went on to study philosophy at Stirling University, as yet unaware that he would one day become a DJ for BBC Radio 1. Ally grew up in a house full of music and his brother studied composing at RSAMD. No surprise, then, that during his time at Stirling, Ally joined the student radio station Air3, and started a podcast with his best friend, eventually running the station for two years and switching to study film media in lieu of philosophy. This experience and contacts made would help him secure his big break. After leaving university, the rise in Ally's career was meteoric. He was approached by the BBC and asked to present Vic Galloway's radio segment while Galloway was on holiday. When Galloway left Radio 1 in November 2010, Ally accepted the offer of replacing him and hosting "BBC introducing...in Scotland". Ally remembers how his "jaw hit the floor" upon being offered the job and replacing Galloway, whom he idolised as a child. "BBC introducing... in Scotland" airs every Monday from midnight until 2am in Scotland and

once a month UK-wide. The show introduces talented, unsigned artists from Scotland, some of whom are interviewed by Ally and perform live on air. Finding such talent involves hours of listening to music sent to him from many eager artists desperate for a breakthrough. Only twenty tracks are picked to play on air every week and Ally explains that generally to play the work of some of the better artists, he "has to chase them". From a young person's point of view, attending at least four gigs a week and listening to music for days on end sounds incredibly easy going, but Ally appears to take his job very seriously and is always keen to find musical gems. Outside of the BBC, he also runs his own video podcast, "Detour Scotland". When asked about his plans for the future, Ally answers that he wants to "take it one step at a time" but that he would definitely "jump for" anything Radio 1 offered him. Watch this space: we could have the next Edith Bowman on our hands.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/allymccrae



Local guest editor,
Claire Hutchison

YOUTH WORK IN NEILSTON

East Renfrewshire Young People's Service works in a number of ways with young people living and spending time in Neilston. Youth workers are out and about in the village every Tuesday and Friday night, seeking to build relationships with young people, providing support and information to them about issues on their own territory and signposting them to youth work programmes run by the council or other agencies.

These have included lifeskills programmes and summer outings as well as the following activities which are provided in response to dialogue

with young people. YPS is delighted to be resuming use of the Bank as an ideal venue for all the sessions (unless otherwise indicated).

GIRLS' GROUP

This is an opportunity for girls aged S1 to S3 to take part in general fun-based social activities such as cooking, dancing, jewellery making and much more. A new group will start in January.

YOUTH NIGHTS

These take place at various locations across Neilston including the Bank, Neilston Leisure Centre and the library. The youth nights are open to all young people over the age of S1 and are an

opportunity to take part in workshops such as Thai boxing, massage, games consoles and much more.

BOYS' GROUP

Next up is a new, 10 week Boys' Group, starting in November, with members drawn from the young people met over a long period of time through detached youth work in the village.

For more information about any projects, or if you're interested in attending the new Girls Group in January please contact the Community Worker, attached to Neilston, Suzie Smith on 0141 577 3786 or 07792 661182.

NEILSTON NOTES

THREADS TO AUSTRALIA

A few folk in Neilston recently had the pleasure of an email correspondence with descendants of the founders of the Crofthead Mill, John Orr and his nephew Robert Orr.

Joyce Wallace of Neilston Community Library and Laura Carswell of NDT, who led the Cowden Hall community research project, heard from Mimi Packer, whose husband Glen (deceased 2009) was grandson of Robert Orr (b1828) and Mary Adam. Robert and Mary had ten children, the second of which is John Ernest Orr, our ancestor and Glen's father.

A photo supplied by Mimi shows the family in Victorian splendour at Cowden Hall House; a wonderful image for the collection. We look forward to Mimi and her family's visit to Neilston some time to soon!



Orr family in Cowden Hall House

WAR MEMORIAL

A meeting took place in St Thomas's Hall recently to discuss the issue of a war memorial for the whole village commemorating those lost in the two world wars and in conflicts since. A committee was formed, with the first priority being the resumption of a joint service for Remembrance Sunday.

Problems with your IT Equipment?

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Please phone for more information

BARRHEAD HOUSING ASSOCIATION NEWS

NEILSTON ROAD SHOW

Barrhead Housing Association tenants are invited to The Bank on Tuesday 22nd November 2011 between 12-2pm and 4-6pm to discuss any issues with our housing staff.

Come along and speak with staff about our services – problem with rent payments or housing benefit? Need to know about future repairs and improvements? Got any feedback on our services or want to complain? Staff are on hand to assist.

All tenants attending will be entered into our prize draw to win a television.

WELFARE RIGHTS SERVICES

With changes already being implemented by the Coalition government and lots of changes ahead, there is no better time for Barrhead HA tenants to get in touch with the Association's welfare rights officer Robert Findlay.

He will do a thorough check to ensure entitlement to benefits is correct. If you are worried about the potential changes, contact Robert for help.

He is in the Barrhead office every Tuesday, so please call 0141 881 0638 to make an appointment – he's pretty busy!

neilston leisure centre

time table

swimming gym

Public Swimming Times	
Monday	Public Swimming 10.00am - 2.00pm Aqua Aerobics 1.00pm - 1.45pm Public Swimming 6.00pm - 8.00pm*
Tuesday	Public Swimming 7.30am - 12.00noon Little Splashers 9.30am - 10.30am Public Swimming 6.45pm - 7.45pm* Swim Fit 7.30pm - 8.30pm Adults Only 7.45pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday	Public Swimming 10.00am - 3.00pm Public Swimming 6.00pm - 8.15pm* Aqua Aerobics 7.30pm - 8.15pm
Thursday	Public Swimming 7.30am - 12.00noon
Friday	Public Swimming 9.00am - 12.00noon Fun Session 6.15pm - 7.15pm Adults Only 7.30pm - 8.40pm
Saturday	No Public Swimming
Sunday	Public Swimming 9.00am - 12.00noon

Gym Opening Times

Monday	9.00am - 8.40pm
Tuesday	7.30am - 8.40pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 8.40pm
Thursday	7.30am - 8.40pm
Friday	9.00am - 8.40pm
Saturday	9.00am - 3.30pm
Sunday	9.00am - 3.30pm

Become a member at Neilston Leisure Centre and enjoy access to our swimming pool, gym and fitness classes. Ask a member of staff for details or call 0141 577 4811

* Two swimming lanes in place. When swimming lessons and other activities are taking place, pool areas may be restricted. During school and public holidays this timetable may be subject to change. Please check notice boards or at reception for details. Times correct as of August 2009.

Neilston Leisure Centre
Main Street, Neilston
East Renfrewshire G76 3NN
Tel: 0141 577 4811
www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/sports

EAST RENFREWSHIRE MUSEUM ARTEFACTS PROJECT

The Museum Artefacts project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, aims to organise, conserve, research and display selected items from the Heritage collection, and to engage fully with volunteers and schools in the process.

A person of great interest to Neilston folks is the engineer John Robertson. Robertson designed the engine for the PS Comet, the first steamship in Europe to operate a successful commercial service. Next year marks 200 years since the Comet's launch in 1812.

The Robertson collection consists of a beautiful silver replica of the stone monument to Robertson at Neilston Cross. This small object has sparked off a number of interesting projects, including working with the Community Council on a display case in Neilston Library; a project with P6 at Neilston Primary School and ongoing photographic and press research.

The contribution of our volunteers, in cataloguing, scanning, researching and making displays, has been a tremendous asset.

We are very much looking forward to the relaunch of the Bank, and hope to contribute a project display to the programme of events around its reopening.

More information from Jenny McGhie, ERC Heritage Project Officer, 0141 577 3872, email jenny.mcghie@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Further information about the project and the Heritage Service can be found at:

www.ercblogs.co.uk/portal

www.flickr.com/photos/eastren

www.portaltothepast.co.uk



Unveiling of Robertson memorial

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Community Council has been pursuing a number of projects during the past year to make Neilston not only more pleasant but also a safer place to live. In conjunction with Strathclyde Police, the CC has embarked on a **Safer Streets project**, designed to tackle mainly anti-social behaviour and vandalism. You may already have noticed an increased presence of police foot patrols over the past few months. The results of changes to the policing methods is reviewed by the Police and CC every three months. **The Love Where You Live project** is ongoing and has involved several council departments, our local shops and schools, and will result in a cleaner environment for all.

Plans for the John Roberston bicentenary exhibition next August are well advanced (see local heritage article). Funding has also been obtained to clean up the Robertson Obelisk and introduce new planting (again with the help of local schools).

Thanks to the CC's and Hillside Tenants & Residents Association's lobbying of the Area Forum, a few more grit bins should be appearing around Neilston, just in time for winter.

IMPORTANT: ERC has just published its consultation report which will form the basis of the new Local Development Plan up to 2025 and beyond. You have until 30th December 2011 to make your views known. Hard copies can be viewed in the library, or online via eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk then click on Planning and then Main Issues Report. A summary of possible housing developments in and around Neilston are shown in the maps in the Main Issues Report : Appendix 3, Site Evaluation document. Remember ERC are asking your opinion on these plans. There are around 16 sites with a potential 1500 houses identified so whether you are for or against a greatly expanded Neilston, let the East Renfrewshire Council know. Please note the CC meets in the Glen Halls on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm (except December and July). Members of the public are most welcome to come along. John Scott (Chair)

PS...

FROM NDT

A well attended Community Council meeting on 25th October heard representation from Lynch Homes on their proposed development on Uplawmoor Road on fields around the Lintmill Dam. NDT's position in planning matters is to champion the Neilston Charter, which in this case stresses the importance of housing infill within village gap sites, as opposed to extensions on the edge.

HELP US BE TOUCH...

IN THE WAY THAT SUITS YOU

HAVE YOU READ THE NEWSLETTER BEFORE?

Yes No

How much time (in total) have you spent reading this newsletter?

Less than 5 mins Up to 10 mins
Up to 20 mins More than 20 mins

WHICH ARTICLES WERE OF MOST INTEREST TO YOU?
(tick all that apply)

Bank articles (pgs 1-5)
Neilston LIVE! (arts, heritage, people) (pg 6-7)
Trust Young People (pg 9)
Development news/Windfarm Q&A (pg 8)
Neilston Notes (pg 10 - 11)

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FOLLOWING?:

AMOUNT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED

Too much Just right
Too little

QUALITY OF NEWSLETTER

Excellent Good
Ok Poor

HAVE YOU TAKEN PART IN ANY NDT ACTIVITIES BEFORE?

Yes No

IF YES, PLEASE STATE WHAT:

HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY FIND OUT ABOUT
ACTIVITIES/EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE?

Word of mouth Flyers/posters in shops
Local newspaper Social media/internet
Public meetings

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BEST WAY FOR NDT TO
PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT ITS WORK WOULD BE?

Word of mouth Flyers/posters in shops
Local newspaper Social media/internet
Public meetings

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE NDT COULD DO TO IMPROVE
HOW IT COMMUNICATES WITH RESIDENTS?

ANY OTHER COMMENTS:

YOUR AGE:

Under 18 19-25 26-35 36-50
51-60 61-75 Over 75

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR:

Street Name:

Postcode:

THANK YOU FOR THIS COMPLETING QUESTIONNAIRE - PLEASE RETURN TO THE BANK AND GET A VOUCHER FOR A FREE HOT DRINK IN THE BANK CAFE AND BE ENTERED IN A FREE PRIZE DRAW TO WIN £30 VOUCHER.

You may not be in the village during weekdays, but please note, café will be open 10am-2pm on Saturdays, and we'll surely see you on 3rd December!

 **NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST**
www.neilstontrust.co.uk

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

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