



EDITORIAL

Hello dear readers. As the summer holiday period is almost with us (and hopefully some summer weather too) I start to think about getting out and about and enjoying the countryside. I am therefore delighted to hear we have a Woodlands group right here in Polmont to help look after our small but delightful woodland area. And if, like me, you like to do something while you sit enjoying the sunshine then why not jot down something and send it in. You don't have to belong to an organisation or to send something on a regular basis. If you have something interesting to tell: your secret family recipe, how to grow gorgeous asparagus, how to kill weeds without chemicals, homebrew from the hedgerow or whatever. Or perhaps you are willing to offer your services dog walking, garden tidyup or babysitting, or offering items you don't need any more. Or tell us what you think of local issues. Or maybe a poem or short story (we may have to serialise it) that you have wanted to write for ages. We would love to hear it all.

Please send your articles to me at: polmontnews@hotmail.co.uk

Polmont Woodlands Group

Submitted by Phillip Harris, Snr Planning Officer (Landscape)



Polmont Woodlands Group is a group of local residents and users of Polmont Woods that has been formed to work with Falkirk Council and oversee the ongoing wood-

land management. The group's aim is to ensure the woods continue to be well managed for responsible recreation, wildlife and education as well as promoting their value to all. The group meets approximately every 7 - 8 weeks at the Greenpark Centre as well as on site.

Summer Meets 2011

The Polmont Woodlands Group will be holding the following events over the summer. Everyone is very welcome. Please book for the walk on 18th Aug:

Thurs 26th May: Managing the Woods

An evening walk to look at the ongoing management of the woodlands, future projects & some of the challenges. Meet 7.30pm at Smiddy Brae Car Park, Old Polmont - bring waterproofs & stout footwear.

Wed 22nd June: Millhall and its Environs: the Feudal History

An illustrated indoor talk about the history of the area around the woods by John Reid. Meet 7.30 pm at the Greenpark Centre, Greenpark Drive, Polmont.

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Polmont Woodlands Group Continued

Thurs 18th August: Woodland Wildlife Walk

An evening walk to look at wildlife in the woods led by a Council Ranger. Meet 7.30pm at Smiddy Brae Car Park – bring waterproofs & stout footwear

PLEASE BOOK FOR THIS EVENT BY TELEPHONING: 01324 504950

OR EMAIL: rangers@falkirk.gov.uk

The above events are open to everyone. If you are a regular user of the woods and interested in their management then why not join Polmont Woodlands Group? For details please contact:

Phillip Harris, Falkirk Council Development Services

Telephone: 01324 504713 or email: phillip.harris@falkirk.gov.uk

Polmont Community Council

Submitted by Rosemary Taylor



Planning Laws

Polmont Community Council are hosting a talk on the new Planning laws in Greenpark Community Centre on Monday 13th June at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Funday

A family Funday will be taking place at Greenpark Community Centre on Sunday 12th June from 11am to 3pm. There will be a variety of indoor and outdoor activities including a Bouncy Castle.

Next Meeting

The next regular Community Council meeting is on Monday 27th June. (just after the schools break up). All are welcome.

St Margaret's Primary School

Submitted by Jackie Reid, Deputy Head Teacher



Royal Wedding Literacy Across Learning Event

Our Royal Wedding event was a huge success with over 200 parents able to attend. They took part in an afternoon with their children in their classrooms hearing about their learning in Literacy and seeing examples of their work. It was a pleasure to see such engagement and pride in learning! Afterwards, our parents enjoyed a cream tea which was of a truly "Royal" standard.

K-Nex Challenge

We are extremely proud of Rebecca Mustard and Ross Keenan of Primary 6 who won the Graeme Cluster K-Nex Challenge. As a result, they were invited to attend the Final held at the Museum of Flight, East Fortune on 10/06/11. They had a great day and were excellent ambassadors for the school.

Mathletics Challenge at Graeme High School

2 teams of our Primary 7 pupils attended the Mathletics Challenge run by Graeme High School on 19.05.11. They gave an absolutely excellent performance coming 1st and 3rd out of the 9 participating teams.

Sports' Days

We were very fortunate to get relatively dry days to enable us to go ahead with both our P1-3 and P4-7 Sports Days – even although this was our second attempt! Our pupils have great fun taking part in a mixture of "Potted" sports and races. Again, many of our parents were able to come along to the event.

Gold Enterprise Award

We have recently been successful in achieving a Gold Award for Enterprise in Education. This recognises the enterprising approach to learning and teaching by pupils and staff in our school. As part of the award, 5 Enterprise Champions have been nominated for their excellent leadership of enterprise projects which have benefited our school community hugely. They are:- Mrs Sian Balfour (MUGA project), Mrs Helen MacLeod (Chairperson of the PTA), Mr Edwin Maguire (Dell Competition), Mrs Lynda Brown (Playground Initiatives) and Mr Scott Gilbert (Community Artist). We will attend an awards ceremony in Grangemouth High School on Tuesday, 07.06.11 to receive the awards, accompanied by Andrew MacLeod and Lucy Hammerton who are 2 of our Primary 7 pupils.

Polmont Rotary Club

Submitted by Ian McLean, Vice President



Rotary Flower Bed on Station Road

Several Rotarians cleared the Spring flower bed in preparation for the planting of summer flowers, mainly lobelia and marigolds (Blue and Yellow Rotary colours). Yet again, removal of the Rotary wheel was attempted over several days, but it still remains in place!! The END POLIO NOW display Board will remain in place, identifying one of our main aims for Rotary Clubs all the world over. Bill Gates (Microsoft) is donating several million dollars to this cause and we are attempting to match his donation. Next year, we hope that another local organisation will present their colourful logo in flowers.

Rotary Club of Polmont

A FUN DAY will be held at the Greenpark Centre on 12th June between 11am and 3pm. There will be both indoor and outdoor events, most of which will be free. Any surplus funds will be donated to local good causes.

Rotakids at Laurieston Primary School

The handover of Office bearers took place on Thursday 2nd June at a special School Assembly. Several Polmont Rotarians were in attendance and they were entertained by a rendition of a specially composed Rotakids song. Watch out for some photos in the forthcoming weeks of the Falkirk Herald and in the Rotary Magazine.

New members Initiative

Our Membership Team are inviting anyone interested in finding out about Rotary to a very informal meeting in the Millfield at 7pm on Monday 20th June. There will be no hard sell, only a chat about anything and everything. You may want to find out more about Rotary but this will come in follow-up invitations. Why not come along, and bring a friend!

Foundation in Rotary

We are delighted to note that our Club of 36 members has met our target of 100 dollars per member for International Projects as identified by our international charity called Foundation. We are a Club which has met these targets over a number of years.

Change in Office bearers

The 29th June will see the annual change in Office bearers with myself taking over from our existing President Nancy Rule who is our first lady President in the Club's history. This will be repeated after my year is complete.

Ian McLean Pres Elect



Community Police

Submitted by PC Colin Richardson

Community Police

Vandalism at Wallacestone Primary School Nursery

On the evening of Tuesday 24th May 2011 three plant pots and numerous plants were torn up within the nursery of Wallacestone Primary School.

The mess made was extensive and caused considerable disruption to the staff. This is wanton destruction of school facilities which impacts on everyone in the community. Both parents and teachers have spent time and effort making the facilities as good as possible for our youngsters and this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated.

The matter was reported to myself and I am pleased to report the incident has been resolved and three juveniles have been dealt with in relation to the matter.

Internet Safety

A second internet safety seminar event is being held by Central Scotland Police due to the overwhelming demand from a similar event in Stirling earlier this year. Detective Chief Inspector Gordon Dawson said: "This event is free and is for anyone living in the Forth Valley whether they are parents, professionals, voluntary workers or carers. It is being held at Cineworld in Falkirk and will outline the risks of the internet and how to make using it safe."

The day-long event organised by Central Scotland Police, in association with Falkirk Internet Action Group Stirling Community Planning Partnership, will see two seminars being held in the Cineworld cinema in Falkirk on Monday June 6 and Monday June 13 from 10am -2pm.

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Community Police Continued

Central Scotland Police, Open Secret and the Women's Support Project will give various presentations on various aspects of the internet including current dangers, grooming for radicalisation, sexualised behaviour and how to take control.

Chief Inspector Gordon Dawson said: "We held a similar event in Stirling in March and we had a waiting list of more than 200 people. The demand has been overwhelming and this shows that people want to know how to stay safe on-line."

Julia Swan, Falkirk Council's director of Education said: "I encourage all adults within the community to attend this event. It is a fantastic opportunity for parents, carers and those who look after children to develop an understanding of the risks and consequences of children and young people's online behaviours and activities. It will also encourage them to be more confident in getting involved with the technologies that children and young people enjoy."

Unfortunately, nobody under the age of 16 will be permitted entry to the event.

To book a place contact Central Scotland Police on 01324 676278 or 01324 678858; or e-mail your name, contact phone number and preferred session to brian.mackie@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk or Nicola.Bennie2@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk

Bogus Bank Callers

Please be aware that if someone calls you from your bank purporting to be checking your details and asking for personal information or account details:

THEY ARE NOT FROM THE BANK !

Banks do contact you to ask about certain things or inform you of unusual account activity but they will never ask for personal details or account info. Please do not entertain anyone asking for account information even if they appear to have some personal details already. They have probably got such information from the internet or some other open source way. Keep yourself and your money safe. If in doubt just say no and hang up then inform your bank of what has happened.

ASBIT patrols

ASBIT patrols were carried out over the weekend of 4th & 5th of June and I am once again pleased to report that overall it was fairly quiet. If you have any concerns regarding anti social behaviour in your area then please contact the police and let us know about it.

Pact May 2011

I am please to report that the PACT for youth disorder in May has been successful in reducing antisocial behaviour by youths in the Polmont area. There has been a drop in the number of calls and there has been a reduction in the number of youths seen in large groups. Patrols have actively dispersed groups and moved them around thus not allowing behaviour to get out of hand. As a result the Pact for anti social behaviour has now been closed. Please note that youth disorder is a very fluid problem and it will continue to be monitored and addressed regardless.

Road safety Activity Continues

Sub-divisional officers and members of the Road Policing Unit have continued this month to address speeding issues as highlighted by communities. These have taken place in areas where communities have identified concerns. What has been interesting is that our increased visibility appears to be having a positive impact on reducing reported crime in some areas and I have no doubt this is partly due to those travelling for criminal reasons thinking twice now before coming into our force area. Drink driving detection has also increased whilst road accident statistics have fallen.

Total hand-held radar(HHR)activity in sub-area command for May resulted in the following statistics:-

Hours activity - 81.5 hours;
Warnings (below punitive threshold) - 364,
Reports to Procurator Fiscal (excessive speeding)- 5;
Fixed Penalty(pre-excessive speeding) - 69.

Whilst we will always reserve the right to take punitive action I hope it is clear to see that the vast majority of disposals were warnings and that in itself indicates that, although over the legal limits, speeds were not always seriously excessive and that the police are not in the business of taking action without just cause. We will continue to take action in terms of road safety and the message must be clear that those who put other road users at risk will be dealt with one way or another.

Should you have a location that is causing you concern please contact your community officer either through the police website or telephone 01786 456000. Thank you.

The Braes Councillors

Submitted by Malcolm Nicol

Braes Councillors

Planning Matters

What a difference a week made in regard to the plans for the restoration of Lathallan House. The proposed enabling development of 36 houses in the grounds were far too modernist for such a setting and I moved continuation of the matter to a special meeting. I urged the applicant to take the opportunity to think again and bring forward a design more in keeping with the setting. Within a week plans were submitted for houses of a much more traditional design and using materials such as stone and slate.

Happily these plans were given a big thumbs up by the committee and we can look forward in the next few years to seeing the house brought back to it's former glory.



Also since the last Polmont News the exciting canal side development I mentioned last edition has been given the go ahead.

Tree damage

The recent high winds certainly caused a lot of havoc and in particular with trees. If you have any council owned trees near you that you feel may have been weakened please get in touch and I will arrange to get them checked.

As always, if you have any queries or need any assistance with any council matter please contact me at:

malcolm.nicol@falkirk.gov.uk

Polmont Church News

Submitted by Rev Jerome O'Brien



Over the past few weeks, there has been much activity taking place in and around the Church.

Marriage Preparations

Polmont Church continues to be a popular place for weddings to be held and there are a good number of weddings happening over the summer. It is encouraging that, with all the talk of being a 'modern' society, marriage and weddings are still regarded with much importance. The Church operates principle that, as with anything in life, if you want to do well at it, you need to make the most of all the opportunities that are available to you. If you want to learn to drive a car, you take lessons; if you want to learn to play the guitar, you take lessons – so it is with marriage. Marriage Preparation is regarded as more important than preparing for the wedding day. As important as that day is, it is only for the day, but marriage is forever. The couples who are marrying in the church over the next year have all met together with the minister over 4 weeks for the marriage preparation gatherings. It has been a happy and relaxed time of sharing ideas, thoughts, concerns and, of course, food! We wish these couples all the best for their future lives together.

Messy Church

The Messy Church gatherings continue to take place on the third Sunday of every month and the next gathering is on the 19th June, which will be a combined picnic and the end of school year prize giving for the children who have been attending the Youth Churches on Sunday morning and the Story Club at St Margaret's School on Tuesday afternoons. Over the past year, we have had some great celebrations, meals together and some extraordinarily messy events, all combined around a theme and a message. The last Messy Church was based on the theme, 'Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd"'. So, we had a horde of kids finding all the lost sheep in the hall, palm and finger painted sheep, a play about Peter who became a lost sheep after Jesus died and was found later by Jesus, and, of course, food.

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Polmont Church News

Outreach Concert

One of the sub-committees of the Church is the Outreach Team which seeks to, as the name suggest, reach out to others to help them and to encourage them in their faith. The Team recently organized a concert in the church hall to raise funds for the two missions that the church supports, a medical mission in the Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe, and a sanctuary and training home in Bangladesh. The concert went very well, led by the Spectrum Choir from St Ninian's Church, Linlithgow, and over £600 was raised for the charities.

Baptisms

Congratulations to Jennifer and the Park clan on the baptism of Abbie on the 22nd May; and to Lisa and David on the baptism of Casey on the 12th June.

Meadowbank Library

Submitted by Lorraine Alexander



Library Opening hours

Day	Open	Close
Monday	9.30 am	8.00 pm
Tuesday	9.30 am	8.00 pm
Wednesday	9.30 am	5.00 pm
Thursday	9.30 am	8.00 pm
Friday	9.30 am	5.00 pm
Saturday	9.30 am	5.00 pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

What's available at the library

CDs, DVDs, CD-ROMs

Children's library

Children's storytimes

Talking books for adults and children

FREE internet access

Computer courses

Newspapers and magazines

Photocopier

Soft Seating Area

PS3 and Wii

More information on the above or any of the library services can be obtained by phoning 503870 or emailing meadowbank.library@falkirk.gov.uk

Greenpark Community Centre

Submitted by Lisa Young Centre Co-ordinator



Programme of activities (* classes have teachers)

Monday

Times

Childminders	9.30-11.30am
China painters	9.30-11.30am
Art group	10.00-12.30pm
Patchwork *	1.30-3.30pm
Bridge *	1.30-3.30pm
Carpet bowls	2.00-4.00pm
Tae Kwon Do (Kids)	5.00-7.00pm
Yachting Club	6.30-9.00pm
Yoga class *	7.00-8.00pm
Polmont Community Council (fourth Monday of each month)	7.30-9.00pm
Zumba	8.30-9.30pm

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Tuesday Activities

Polmont Ramblers
Parents and toddlers
Beginners yoga *
Coffee shop/bookstall
Tai chi *
Tea dance
Slimming World
Rainbows
Beginners Sewing Class*
Karate
Falkirk Writers Circle
Jogging club
Yoga Class *

Times

Meet at 9.00am
9.30–11.00am
10.00–11.00am
10.00am–12.00pm
11.00am–12.00pm
1.30–3.30pm
6.00–7.00pm
6.00–7.00pm
7.00–9.00pm
7.00–9.30pm
7.00–9.00pm
7.00–9.00pm
7.30–9.00pm

Wednesday Activities

Polmont Probus
Stretch and tone
Coffee shop
Childminders
OAP lunch club
Patchwork *
Craft group
Carpet bowls
Aerobics *
Pilates
Hillwalkers (monthly meeting)
Hobbies/Craft class
Zumba
Trefoil Guild Meetings
(first Wednesday of each month)
Model Fly Club (monthly)

Times

9.00am–12.00pm
10.00–11.15am
10.00am–12.00pm
10.00am–12.00pm
12.00–1.30pm
1.30–3.30pm
1.30–3.30pm
2.00–4.00pm
6.00–7.00pm
6.00–7.00pm
7.00–9.00pm
7.00–9.00pm
7.30–8.30pm
7.30–8.30pm
7.30–10.00pm

Thursday Activities

Parent and toddlers
Line dancing *
Coffee shop/bookstall
Floral art
Art appreciation
Art Classes*
Art club
Brownies
Yachting Club
Scottish Slimmers
Drama Group
(last Thursday of each month)

Times

9.30–11.30am
10.00–11.00am
10.00am–12.00pm
10.30am–12.00pm
11.45am–1.30pm
1.30–3.30pm
2.00–4.00pm
6.00–7.30pm
6.30–9.00pm
7.00–9.00pm
7.00–9.00pm

Friday Activities

Parent and toddlers
Polmont Quilters
Childminders
Lunch club
Scottish Country Dancing*
Poetry group

Times

9.30–11.30am
9.30am–12.00pm
10.00am–12.00pm
12.00–1.30pm
1.30–3.30pm
2.00–4.00pm

Friday evenings available for private lets

Saturday Activities

Baby Massage Class

Times

10.00–11.00am

Saturdays available for private lets

Sunday Activities

Quakers
Fuchsia Society
Horticultural Society monthly meetings

Times

10.45–12.00pm
2.00–4.30pm
7.00–9.00pm