



## EDITORIAL

Hello everyone. After such a lovely long school break it is nice to welcome back some routine. As a friend says "a new adventure can't begin until the old one is over." Certainly the younger children who attended the very successful Polmont Old Holiday Club are really looking forward to getting back to school again; and we can look forward to hearing from St Margaret's in the next issue. Many other groups, training courses, leisure activities start up again around this time of year so if you want to try something new, now is the time. The UK (like many other countries) is facing economic pressure and cutbacks and so local community and voluntary organisations – like the Rotary Club in Polmont - really need support and are also something to consider. See CVS at <http://www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/>

Please send your articles to me at: [polmontnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:polmontnews@hotmail.co.uk)

### Meadowbank Library

Submitted by Karen Cumming



#### New Opening Hours

From 1<sup>st</sup> September our library opening hours will be changing and will be as follows:

- Mon/Fri: 10am-5pm
- Tues/Thurs: 10am-8pm
- Wed: 10am-4pm
- Sat: 10am-3pm

Please ask at the desk for bookmarks and details of new opening hours for other libraries.

#### Author Visit

We had a very successful visit from Rose Impey, the popular children's writer, fresh from the Edinburgh festival, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August. The children and their parents all had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed her stories. It was a very entertaining session and we hope to have more author visits in the near future. We would like to thank Rose Impey for her time and enthusiasm.

#### Children's Activities

Baby Rhymetime for children aged up to 18 months will be moving from the month of September. New day and dates to follow.

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# Meadowbank Library Continued

## Children's Activities

Toddlerround for ages 18 months – 3 years will restart after the summer. First date of the new session will be Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Please ask at the desk for details.

## Book Sale

Look out for some last minute bargains in the final few days of our summer book sale. This has been very successful with a great choice of books and DVDs for both adults and children.

## Back to school

Falkirk Schools go back on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. We have a good selection of junior non-fiction books available in the library. Come in quickly and make your choices, for all your projects and assignments.

More information on the above or any of the library services can be obtained by phoning 503870 or emailing [meadowbank.library@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:meadowbank.library@falkirk.gov.uk)

## The Braes Councillors

Submitted by Malcolm Nicol

### Braes Councillors Free Compost

The Council is reintroducing the service of the free issue of compost to Falkirk council area residents. It will be available from both of the council Recycling Centres, (Kinneil Kerse, Grangemouth Road, Bo'ness and Roughmote, Bogton Road, Bonnybridge). This product which is made from the materials collected from the domestic brown bin service, Grounds Maintenance operations and from horticultural waste brought to the Recycling Centres has been through a controlled composting process at our Kinneil Kerse Composting Facility and has been screened to a size of 40mm and below. The material has been independently sampled and has met all of the criteria required for a soil improver (this means it is suitable for gardens to be dug into the soil or as a top dressing on beds or borders). You will need to take your own shovel and bags.

### Cleaning of Bus Shelters

I have been urging the cleaning of these as many are in a sad state and really are an eyesore. It has now been agreed that they will be cleaned under the Community Payback scheme within the next 4 weeks or so.

### Weeds

This has been the worst year that I can recall for weeds- so much so that I asked the senior officer for a written explanation of why things have been so bad this year. Whilst the weather has been conducive to growth the main culprit seems to be surprise, surprise!- "Health and safety restrictions on the chemical products that can be used. The council has had to change product types, as the previously used product has been removed from sale. This product was stronger and more effective in controlling weeds, particularly after the initial spraying. The first spray is very important as it not only kills weeds that are present but also helps to form a barrier to stop weed germination. The new licensed product does not provide long a period of weed control and can only be applied once a year. Further applications have to use a different product which again is less effective. To get to grips with the problem the number of sprays is being increased from 2 to 3 sprays on footpaths and roadside channels. Trialling of flower bed burning prior to planting, to reduce the volume of weed seed within beds- this is being rolled out across all beds from spring 2012 plantings (cannot be used on rose beds). Additional staff will be trained in weed spraying and further testing of different chemical products to try to improve on what has been used this summer"

Whilst on the subject of ground maintenance, many open areas in Polmont are private ground and cannot be maintained at public expense by the council. Some like the area round the Co-op are owned by off shore companies giving the council great difficulty in forcing them to maintain the ground. In the past the Co-op has generously done much to keep the area round their store tidy although they did not have ownership. This year they have advised that they can no longer maintain that commitment. Happily and despite having no obligation the shrub bed and grass area and the steps close to the Millfield Pub/Restaurant will be looked after by them and I am very grateful to the Millfield for that. The area behind the bottle banks is also owned by an offshore company and is presenting more of a challenge.

As always if I can be of any assistance please continue to contact me at [Malcolm.Nicol@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.Nicol@falkirk.gov.uk)

## Compost.

(40mm Soil Improver)  
Batch number: - Base Jan 2011

Free of Charge to Falkirk Council Residents.

This material is made from horticultural waste from domestic garden waste collections (Brown Bins) and parks waste from 2010, that has been put through a controlled composting process and screened to remove material over 40mm in size.

The material has been tested to appropriate standards and is suitable for use to improve garden soil, by top dressing or digging in.

The Council cannot provide bags or tools, therefore, please use your own containers and a shovel, and please let family, friends and neighbours know that this material is freely available.

Site staff will be able to offer information and advice on the material and its uses. For more information about composting, waste collection and recycling services please contact 01324-504444, [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk), [contact\\_centre@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:contact_centre@falkirk.gov.uk)



# Polmont Church News

Submitted by Rev Jerome O'Brien



## Holiday Club & Extravaganza

It has been something of a mammoth school holiday, lasting all of 8 weeks. It is the general consensus from the children that they are ready to go back to school, and it is the most universal agreement from all of the parents that the children are most definitely going back to school.

Over the past few years, Polmont Church has set aside the last week of the School Holidays to host its annual Holiday Club for all the Primary School Children of the Parish who want to come along to it. This year has been no exception, and we ran the Holiday Club from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> August, with the finale, 'Holiday Club and Messy Church Extravaganza', taking place on the Sunday evening on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.

It was a great week. We used the material prepared by Scripture Union which dealt with God's rescue of the people of Israel from the land of Egypt and the hands of Pharaoh, through His prophet Moses. This theme was explained through the device of a Secret Agent rescue mission and all of the games, craft and work shop ideas employed this device to flesh out this story about Moses. The Church hall was transformed by all of the craft work that we put up all over the walls, as well as by a generous and helpful gift of posters that had been prepared by Larbert Old Church, which had run the same program earlier in the holiday.

We had over 50 children coming along to the Club over the week and they seemed to enjoy and appreciate the Club immensely. They enthusiastically joined in with the singing and challenges, gave their full concentration to the craft work, brought the house down with the games, and worked well together in the Workshops. In the middle of the week, we even had the Falkirk Herald come along to take pictures of the goings on.

The Extravaganza evening on Sunday was a great time where all the kids who had been to the Club got together again, this time with their families, to celebrate the end of the Holiday Club. They showed off all the craft that they had made, and we joined together in some games and celebrated with songs. We went through the life lessons that we had learned during the week and finished off with a fish & chip supper, ice cream and a chocolate fountain, to the delight of all.

The Church and the wider community owes a great debt of thanks to all of the magnificent helpers who gave up so much of their time and energy to help out at the Club and to make it possible. There are some very, very skilled and creative people there and their gifts were greatly appreciated by the young folk. We were also delighted to have the help of a good number of young teenagers at the Club, whose rapport with the younger attendees, their contribution and energy were a pleasure.

## Groups back in action

So, the holidays are over and all of the Church organizations are starting into action again, from the Youth Groups, Lunch Bunch, Wednesday Clubs, Baby Group and the like. A busy time and much good work lies ahead of us, but that will be news for another time...

# Community Police

Submitted by PC Colin Richardson

## Community Police

### Door-step criminals

I would like to warning householders to be cautious about allowing strangers into their homes. The warning comes after an incident in Killearn where a man called at the home of an elderly woman and persuaded to be allowed in as he was selling goods. While nothing was taken the woman was shaken by the incident and she informed relatives who notified the police.

Doorstep criminals target the elderly and vulnerable people in our communities and a few simple steps can be taken to prevent becoming a victim.

- \* If you have a chain put it on before opening the door
- \* Do not agree to work or sign anything on the spot
- \* The law states you should be given a contract for work and have a seven day cooling off period for any goods or services over £35.
- \* Be wary of special offers or warnings that your house is unsafe

If you have any concerns please contact myself to arrange for a free and independent safety and security check on your property.

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# Community Police Continued

## **Fraudulent Scheme - UKASH**

Please be aware of a new fraudulent scheme whereby victims are contacted by the fraudsters and informed they are eligible for a large cash lump sum. In order to receive the sum all they have to do is purchase £100 worth of credit in UKASH vouchers and then they will receive a code to release the money. This is a fraudulent scheme but UKASH is a legitimate top up card service but their vouchers can be used fraudulently. Please be aware of this and spread the word to your friends to ensure no one gets stung by this scheme.

## **Counterfeit Bank Notes**

Please be aware that recently there was a recovery of Bank of Scotland £20.00 notes in the Falkirk area. The reference number on the notes was 469727. If you have any doubts about such notes in your possession please contact the police

## **Potential Frauds and Scams**

There has been a recent incident in Polmont whereby a company were asked to do work which turned out to be sub-standard and now the company cannot be contacted. Don't take workmen for granted, do checks when possible and protect yourself and your money at all times. If you are asking anyone to do work for you there are some crucial points to remember as follows:

If they come to your door on spec and uninvited,

1. Never let them do the work there and then.
2. Never pay then until the work is complete and you are happy with it.

If you contact them to ask for work to be done:

1. Always get other quotes
2. Never pay up front for the work
3. Only pay for the work when you are satisfied with the work done.

## **Credit Card Scam.**

I have received information that there is an e-mail scam circulating whereby people are being duped into giving their bank card details.

If you receive an e-mail stating there is a problem with your Billing and asking you to click on a link to update your billing details DON'T DO IT. The details asked for include banking details and if entered your account will be quickly emptied.

If you are in any doubt about such matters pick up the phone a call the service provider and speak to them directly. Never click on an internet link requesting you to update details. Reputable companies do not ask in this way they write to you instead.

## **Adults buying alcohol for persons under 18 years of age**

Buying alcohol for people under the age of 18 is against the law. This weekend a 16 year old male was charged with buying or attempting to buy alcohol and one adult male was charged with buying or attempting to buy alcohol for a child or young person. A report is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in Falkirk.

This practice is totally unacceptable, anyone caught doing so will be arrested and reported. Anyone found guilty of this charge can receive a heavy fine and possible imprisonment so please let us know of any instances.

## **ASBIT weekend**

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th was the weekend ASBIT which was generally quieter than usual. There was some enquiry work conducted into outstanding crimes which was possible due to a reduced number of calls relating to youths disorder and open space crime. Overall it was a quiet weekend and there appeared to be a reduced number of youths able to obtain alcohol and thereafter cause associated problems.

## **Hand Held Radar in the Braes Area**

Please be aware that Hand Held Radar Checks will be conducted at random throughout the Braes area late August. This is in order to remind drivers that the schools are going back and that they should be mindful of their speed for the safety of all children and indeed all persons using the public roads.

# GREENPARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

## CENTRE PROGRAMME

### MONDAYS

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
Sewing Block 2	7.00—9.00pm **
Yoga (Linda Scott)	7.00—8.00pm
Zumba	8.30—9.30pm

### TUESDAYS

Polmont Ramblers	Meet at 9am
Coffee Shop/Bookstall	10.00—12.00pm
Step Forth (Walks)	Meet at 10am
Beginners Yoga **	10.00—11.00am
Parents & Toddlers	9.30—11.30am
Tai Chi Class **	10.30—12.15pm
Tea Dance	2.00—4.00pm
Falkirk Writers Circle	7.00—9.00pm
Slimming World	6.00—7.00pm
Bridge Club	7.30—9.30pm
Rainbows	6.00—7.00pm
Jogging Club	7.00—9.00pm
Karate (Junior)	7.00—8.00pm
Karate (Senior)	8.00—9.30pm
Junes Yoga Class	7.30—9pm

### WEDNESDAYS

Coffee Shop	10.00—12.00
Childminders	10.00—12.00pm
Stretch & Tone	10.00—11.15am
Polmont Probus (Fortnightly)	9.00—12.00pm
OAP Lunch Club	12.00—1.30pm
Patchwork **	1.30—3.30pm
Craft Group	1.30—3.30pm
Beginners Watercolour Class	1.30—3.30pm **
Carpet Bowls	2.00—4.00pm
Pilates	6.00—7.00pm
Ju-Jit-Zu	7.00—8.30pm
Hillwalkers (Monthly Meeting)	7.00—9.00pm

Craft Class	7.00—9.00pm
Model Flying Club (Monthly)	7.30—9.30pm
Zumba	7.30—8.30pm
Trefoil Guild Meetings (Monthly)	7.00—9.00 pm

### THURSDAYS

Parent & Toddlers	9.30—11.30am
Coffee Shop/Bookstall	10.00—12.00pm
Floral Art	10.30—12.00pm
Line Dancing **	10.00—11.00am
Art Appreciation	11.45—1.30pm
Art Class	1.30—3.30pm **
Art Club	2.00—4.00pm
Brownies	6.00—7.30pm
Scottish Slimmers	7.00—9.00pm
Drama/Theatre Group (Last Thurs)	7.30—9.30pm

### FRIDAYS

Parent & Toddlers	9.30—11.30am
Childminders	10.00—12.00pm
Polmont Quilters	9.30—12.00pm
Lunch Club	12.00—1.30pm
Country Dancing	1.30—3.30pm **
Poetry Group	2.00—4.00pm

### SATURDAYS

**Saturdays available for Private Lets**

### SUNDAYS

Quakers	10.45—12.00pm
Fuchsia Society	2.00—4.30pm
Horticultural Society	
Monthly Meetings	7.00—9.00pm

**\*\* = Classes that have teachers/tutors**

**Greenpark Community Centre**

**Greenpark Drive**

**POLMONT, FK2 0PZ**

**Tel. 01324 506730—Fax: 01324 506731**

**E-mail: [lisaa.mccallum@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:lisaa.mccallum@falkirk.gov.uk)**

**Website: [www.greenparkcentre.org](http://www.greenparkcentre.org)**

# Polmont Rotary Club

Submitted by Ian Maclean



## New Member

Polmont Rotary Club has a new member. Tom Taylor joined Polmont Rotary on Wednesday 3rd August. Tom was born in Kirkliston, but spent most of his childhood in Linlithgow. Tom has 3 of a family all working in the NHS and Civil Engineering. Tom trained as an Agricultural Engineer but learnt to become a Maintenance Engineer, then expanding his experience as a Fabrication Engineer and then a Lifting Engineer. While with WL Gore he trained operators in others parts of the World including China and Australia. Tom's wife Rosemary was a teacher, now retired and Tom retired a couple of years ago. Both are very active in our community. Tom's hobbies include carpet and grass bowls and playing the bagpipes. Tom has joined our Community Team.

## Speakers

Polmont Rotary has a speaker most weeks and so far we have had a job talk by one of our members, a talk on the clearances by Author Ian Leith, Brian Marjoribanks - Scottish Daily Mail Sports Reporter on his experiences as a journalist. In the following weeks we will have Prof. David Bell, Stirling University talking to us on the Scottish Economy and Michael Connarty MP on the Purpose of Politics Today?

## The Rotary Charity—Foundation

Rotary has its own Charity which is called Foundation. This year Rotarians and friends of Rotary responded with extraordinary generosity again. Contributions to the Annual Programmes Fund were the second-highest ever, at nearly **\$108 million**. After 20 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating Polio through the **Polio Plus** programme. This is a tenacious disease and a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all. Contributions to Rotary Foundation will help Rotary raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families. As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high. From this you can see the scale of the work that Rotary is involved in. Thanks to the community of Polmont we have played our part in that — thank you to all of you who have supported our activities locally.

