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Polmont Community Newsletter



EDITORIAL

Hello everyone. Well it looks like the longer than usual school holiday has resulted in a flurry of young people rushing to join the local youth organisations run by Polmont Old church. This is fantastic news - but of course more members means more helpers are always needed. It is however sad to see Community Police involvement with a few young people who seem to be intent on squandering their free time in an anti-social or self-destructive way. If you know a neighbour with a young person in the family who seems to be at a loose end please tell them about this newsletter which details all the exciting youth clubs and activities that they can be a part of. I would also like to use this editorial space to just briefly mention a forthcoming **photography competition** which will be in the next newsletter. Polmont is a lovely place to live, with features like the Union canal, as per the picture on the left, and we would like you to capture this beauty over the seasons. The theme of the competition is "Autumn" so now is the time to get out and get snapping. Please send your articles to me at:

polmontnews@hotmail.co.uk

St Margaret's Primary School

Submitted by Jackie Reid, Deputy Head Teacher



Science Success!

We were absolutely delighted at the end of last session to discover that one of our Primary 7 pupils, Callum Brown, had been successful in winning a competition run by the Chemical Industries Association. Callum entered the competition whilst attending the INEOS Science and Technology Fair, an event which our Business partners in INEOS run each year for all Primary 7 pupils in Falkirk Schools.

Callum created a poster which communicated his innovative ideas for a futuristic world to ensure global sustainability. The Chemical Industries Scientists were so impressed with his ideas that he was the overall winner, which secure him a personal prize AND £500.00 for our school with which to purchase Science equipment. Callum, and his family, were invited to Westminster during the summer holidays to receive this prestigious award. They even cut short their family holiday to take part in this wonderful experience! All in the St. Margaret's community would like to say a huge thank you to Callum and his family. We will benefit hugely from his success. We would also like to wish Callum every success as he continues his school career at Graeme High School—keep up this enterprising, innovative approach to learning Callum!!

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St Margaret's Primary School Continued

New Starts

Our new Primary 1 pupils have made a super start to the new session, settling in very quickly to school life and already "gelling" very well with their classmates. Our parents need not have felt anxious about their wee ones making the big step into Primary 1. They have already shown themselves to be Confident Individuals, even in the short time since the start of term.

Our New Nursery Setting

We are extremely proud of our new Nursery setting which opened at the start of the new session on our school site. It is wonderful to have all our Nursery pupils on our school campus, which will enable them to take part in many school events throughout the year, in preparation for them making their transition into Primary 1.

Our outdoor play area is almost completed and is looking nothing short of spectacular! Once completed, our Nursery pupils will be able to make full use of this area. It will be lovely for passers-by to see them all out playing and learning in such a fantastic environment. We would like to thank our Nursery team for their tireless efforts in ensuring the amalgamation of our two Nurseries went so smoothly for our children and their families.



Polmont Church News

Submitted by Rev Jerome O'Brien



Youth Organisations

All of the Youth organisations have started up again and we are all a bit surprised at the increased interest from many young folk to come along and be part of these events. All of our Youth organisations have seen a large increase in numbers. What is also interesting is that this seems to be coming from the young people themselves, rather than them being 'persuaded' to try things out by their parents.

The Baby Group has resumed on Monday afternoons at 1:30 in the Church Hall for all families with young children up to about 18 months or so. Many of the mums who come to this participate in the Polmont Walkers group that goes buggy pushing around Parkhill and then stagger back to the Hall for a welcome cuppa and blether.

The Sunday Morning Youth Churches have resumed and there is a good program of events and themes operating. The crèche is in full swing and we are convinced that there has been a baby boom in Polmont with the number of babies that we are seeing.

The Boys Brigade meets on Thursday evenings for the Anchor Boys (or Ankle Biters!) from 6 – 7 p.m. at the Hall, and on Friday evenings for the Junior Section (6:45 – 8:00 p.m.) at the Greenpark Centre and for the Company Section (6:45 – 9:00 p.m.) and the Hall. Good numbers are attending and the Company now has close to 70 boys coming along which helps to make for a full and happy program.

The Girls Brigade meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15 at the Hall for all Sections and there were 30 Girls at the last meeting. Another good program is being offered and the girls were very taken with the Zumba teacher coming along for an active session of Zumbatomic for kids.

The Grid operates on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of each month from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Hall for those who are in P7 and above. We play some hectic, energetic games, have a meal together (oh, all right then, a good snack), watch a film and then talk about it afterwards. Trying to hold a discussion with 30 youngsters is beyond us, so we divide into 3 or 4 smaller groups and are thankful to the helpers who come along to lead them.

Messy Church has resumed as well, on the third Sunday evening of every month, from 5 – 7. It remains a very popular gathering for families and we are encouraged by the many folk who are learning to appreciate this form of faith gathering.

So Polmont is doing a lot for the young people (as well as the not so young and everyone in between). We could not do this without the care and help of many, many dedicated and enthusiastic helpers and supporters. We like to think that all of this helps to do a great deal for the social capital of our community.

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Polmont Church News Continued

Recent Services

The Church remains a busy place over the past month.

On the 28th August, we had our annual '**Back to School' Sunday** in which we gave thanks to God for the Schools (and after 8 weeks of Summer Holidays, who could help but be thankful!) and the teachers and support staff. We reminded the young people of their witness in the schools and we undertook, as a Church, to remember the schools (and all in them) in prayer before the Lord.

On the 4th September, the Boys and Girl Brigades held their **Opening Parade Service**. There was the usual dedication of the Officers, members of the Brigades and the congregation for all of their service in the year ahead. It was good to see so many families coming out to support their children on this occasion which was a very special one for all involved.

On the 11th September, we held the **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** with many gifts being offered for the house bound members of our community. Many volunteers came to the church the following day to help with the distribution of the gifts, which were well received.

Future Events

Looking ahead, there is the MacMillan Coffee morning, quiz nights, Messy Church, and so many other events taking place. Please have a look at the Church Website on www.polmontold.org.uk for more details and information.

The Braes Councillors

Submitted by Cllr Malcolm Nicol

Braes Councillors Flaring

I received an email from Ineos last week warning of long term flaring at their Grangemouth plant which will no doubt be seen and heard in parts of Polmont (I know I get both!) It read:

Ineos will be carrying out planned maintenance work on a number of plants, including the G4 ethylene plant. The maintenance programme is expected to last for 50 days. Local residents will see spells of flaring from the high level flares during this period. We will make every effort to ensure the level and duration are minimised but apologise for any inconvenience the flaring may cause.

Local Plan

For a long period of time the grassed area in the Main Street besides Oakbank Home has been zoned for housing. Thankfully nobody has come forward with an application.

An opportunity exists in the compilation of the new local plan for me to have it removed as a housing opportunity and to protect it as the green space that it is at the heart of our village. I will do this as well as urge protection of the ground at the west entrance of the village adjacent to Polmont Park which has also attracted interest from developers.

Greenpark Centre

In July when the Community Trust took over many of the council buildings on the community and leisure side the Greenpark stayed with the council under the Education department. I am happy to say that Education have now agreed a three phase programme of window replacement to the hatted part of the centre which will begin in mid October.

The work will also include removing asbestos which has as you would imagine greatly increased the costs and the difficulty of the window replacement. When the work is completed early in the new year the exterior of the building will be repainted.

Each month for this article I pick a few items that hopefully are of interest but for more information on these or on any issue or concern you have with the council do not hesitate to contact me at malcolm.nicol@falkirk.gov.uk



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
Yachting Classes **	6.30—9.00pm
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
Rainbows	6.00—7.00pm
Slimming World	6.00—7.00pm
Spanish/French Classes **	6.30—9.00pm
Falkirk Writers Circle	7.00—9.00pm
Bridge Club	7.30—9.30pm
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 **
Pilates **	1.30—2.30pm
Art Club	2.00—4.00pm
Brownies	6.00—7.30pm
Scottish Slimmers	7.00—9.00pm
Drama/Theatre Group	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: lisa.mccallum@falkirk.gov.uk

Website: www.greenparkcentre.org

Community Police

Submitted by PC Colin Richardson

Community Police Helicopter Rescue.

The alarm was raised on 17th September when a man came off his off-road motorcycle near to Almond Road, Whitecross and injured himself. He'd been enjoying an evening of riding with friends when he injured himself and an Ambulance was called. Our friends from the Scottish Ambulance Service called on the assistance of the Royal Air Force who arrived in a helicopter to lift the man from the fields to hospital. His injuries are not serious and the red helicopter caused quite a stir among locals.

Attempted break in to The Millfield, Polmont.

Between 11.30pm on the 11th September and 12pm on the 12th September an attempt to break into the Millfield Bar occurred. Two male persons were seen in the area along with a black car. Should anyone have any information regarding this incident please contact Central Scotland Police.

UNLICENSED PREMISES CAUGHT SELLING ALCOHOL

On Saturday 17th September a licensed premises in Polmont was caught selling alcohol without a license. As such a report is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. Should anyone have any information about any premises selling alcohol illegally such as outwith hours or to persons under age please contact myself or any other officer

Anti—social behaviour

The Community Team in the Braes are regularly tackling youth disorder and anti-social behaviour. Over the past month ASB Tickets consisting of a £40 fine have been handed out to persons who drink in public.

Members of the public have told us that this is an area of concern in their community and we intend to tackle it. We will take a robust approach to any crimes of anti-social behaviour, disorder, underage drinking and vandalism. High visibility patrols are carried out every Friday and Saturday evening.

Youth Disorder

During Asbit patrols on Friday 9th September, I had been made aware that a group of youths who planned to club together to buy alcohol and congregate in the Quarry Park, Brightons. As a result PC Wallace and myself conducted patrols targeting youths and moving them on. Despite this a large group did gather in Quarry Park and were dispersed accordingly. It was clear that some of these youths had been drinking, had lost their usual inhibitions and were shouting a conducting themselves in a disorderly manner.

I want to make it clear to these youths that such behaviour will not be tolerated and I am asking members of the public to contact the police if they see or hear such groups gathering. I also wish to make it clear that anyone joining such a group just to watch and listen, will be treated as one of the group if there is any disorder. The old saying "if you fly with the crows you will be shot with the crows" is very relevant in such circumstances.

Pupils dabbling with drugs

On 31st August police dealt with an incident at a local school which allegedly involved drugs. Enquiries resulted in recovery of some items which were not controlled drugs but the circumstances were such that there was an intension of drug dealing. This is something which the police will be clamping down on extremely hard. Anyone caught going to school with or purporting to be in possession of drugs will be dealt with severely. To follow on from this incident a drugs input by police is being planned for school pupils.

Drug dealing is illegal and has a very big impact on communities in terms of anti social behaviour and degradation of the area. This does not appear to be a major problem in the Polmont, Brightons and Whitecross area but, as in any community, there are some people involved in such things. If anyone has any information regarding anyone they suspect of dealing drugs, please contact myself Tel 01786 456000 or by telephoning crimestoppers Tel 0800 555111

SPEEDING VEHICLES

Please be aware that hand held radar patrols will be conducted in all areas of the Braes over the coming weeks. I would encourage everyone to adhere to the speed limits as it is in the interests of safety for all.

Polmont Community Council

Submitted by Rosemary Taylor



Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council is 26th, Monday, September at Greenpark, 7.30pm.

Polmont Rotary Club

Submitted by Susan Ord



Tesco Visit

Past President Nancy reported on the success of our Shelterbox Tent and Trade Box Presentation at the local Tesco Supermarket on Saturday 27th August, 1pm to 6pm. This collection raised £300. Apart from the donations it was a very successful P R exercise, with

general interest shown in the display.

We were given this opportunity at very short notice and our thanks again are due to Andrew Wilson and Heather McNally for delivering the boxes in time. Thanks also go to Ian Mclean, Mary Sneddon. Norman Black and George Kerr who assisted and of course to Tesco who gave us the opportunity.



District Governor visits Polmont Rotary Club



Polmont Rotary Club had a very busy evening when President Ian Maclean welcomed District Governor Keith Best. Keith gave a very informative talk on his life in Rotary and the inspirational people he had met through the organisation. When finished, Susan Ord gave the club vote of thanks.

The club members then welcomed new member Jim Dyer into the fold. Jim will serve in the community committee. Finally, Polmont played hosts to the Rotary Club of Shotts in the Rotary Quiz. After several close rounds, the visitors ran away with a well deserved victory in the final round. As Polmont member Alan Oliver said, on the night our opponents were 'Hot Shotts'.

