



EDITORIAL

Hello dear readers. In this issue you will find the usual interesting roundup of what has been happening in our community during November. But the main focus, not surprisingly, is the run up to Christmas. In particular you can check up on all the interesting activities which are going to be taking place in Polmont Old Church and in the Meadowbank Library and I am sure you will find something that is of interest to everyone be they young or older. **Email the Editor @ polmontnews@hotmail.co.uk**

Community Council

Submitted by Rosemary Taylor

Polmont Community Council will meet on 28th November at 7.30pm in Greenpark Centre as usual. On the Agenda will be Community Clearing of the ridge at Gilston Crescent and Development of land between Gilston Farm and Bathgate Road. Everyone welcome.



Polmont Church News

Submitted by Rev Jerome O'Brien



In the run up to Christmas, things get very busy in people's lives, and the church in particular.

Remembrance Sunday

Over the past month, we have held two very special and memorable services in the Church. The first of these, on the 13th November, was the Remembrance Day service. We were able to welcome members from most of the armed services, and it was a delight to welcome members of the Scottish Prison Service to the occasion for the first time in their official capacity. The Silence and wreath laying ceremonies were observed. The wreath for the Great War memorial was laid in the Church by Bill Smart and the wreath for the World War Two memorial on the outside front wall of the church was laid by David Baff. Both of these men served their country in the Korean War. After the church service, which was well represented by members of the Boys and Girls Brigade, as well as St Margaret's School, about 100 people gathered at the cenotaph in the cemetery and a further ceremony was held with over 30 wreaths being laid by the armed forces and most of the community organisations and groups that serve and operate in the Braes area.

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Polmont Church News Continued

Guild Sunday



On the 20th November, the ladies of the Women's Fellowship were in the church in force – so much so that they took over the place! We have an annual service during Guild Week each year when the women of the Fellowship conduct the service from beginning to end. It is a delight to hear their voices, learn of their program and share their achievements. All the songs were chosen by the women and they led the prayers, readings and everything else. The talk was given by Tracey O'Brien, who spoke to the Guild theme of 'Walk humbly with your God'.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

There are a number of big events due to take place in the church over Christmas:

- The 13th December welcomes the Grangemouth Choral Society back into the church for its annual Christmas concert. The Society is always good value and we are really looking forward to this event;
- On the 16th December, there is a combined Boys and Girls Brigade carol service taking place in the Church;
- On the 18th December, we are having our Messy Church Christmas in the Hall starting at 5:00 pm. It will be a Christingle Service and all are welcome;
- On the 21st December, at 7:00 p.m., there is a service of Remembering and Thanksgiving. This service is created for those who have lost loved ones in the past year or so. It is a quiet, reflective time of personal remembrance and there are opportunities to give thanks to God for those who will not be at in the Christmas table this year;
- On the 24th December, at 11:00 p.m. there is the Watch Night Service in the church. It is one of the biggest events of the year, and does NOT have a sermon and everyone is very welcoming and happy;
- And, of course, Christmas Day in the Church at 11 am.

Christmas Thought

I was once in a big department store at Christmas time. The place was heaving with people doing last minute shopping. As I got into a lift, a very flustered and annoyed looking woman caught the same pretty crowded lift just in time. She was carrying parcels and bags and children and too much frustration. When the doors closed, she uttered loudly, "I could kill the person who ever invented Christmas!"

Someone behind me replied, "You're too late. They already have 2000 years ago."

Please remember that Christmas starts with 'Christ' and you are most welcome to worship Him with us over this season.

Meadowbank Library

Submitted by Allan Wright



Christmas Opening Hours

The library will be closed this year on Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th December and also on Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd January. On Thursday 29th December we will close at 5pm instead of the usual 8pm. Posters will go up nearer the time. Anyone still unsure of the new opening times, there are bookmarks available, so please ask at the desk.

Children's Christmas Craft Session

We will be running a Christmas themed craft session this year on Saturday 17th December from 10.30 – 11.30am. Tickets are free and will become available nearer the time. Look out for posters and ask at the desk for more information.

Children's Activities

Christmas Baby Rhymetime for children aged up to 18 months, will be held in December on Thursday 8th from 10.15 – 10.45am. Bring along your babies and enjoy some Christmas songs. Tickets are available from Thursday 1st December.

Toddleround for ages 18 months – 3 years. Bring along your toddler to our Christmas Toddleround for some festive fun on Thursday 15th December at 10.15am. Tickets will be available from Thursday 8th December.

Children's Activities Continued on Page 3

Meadowbank Library

Christmas Storytime – Come and join us for Storytime on Thursdays at 2pm and enjoy some festive stories throughout December.

Please ask at the desk for details.

Letters to Santa



Throughout December we will have our usual post box for children to post letters to Santa. Santa will leave his replies beside the Christmas tree in the library.

Christmas Stock

From mid-November look out for our wide range of Christmas books, DVDs and CDs from children's picture books to how to cook the perfect Christmas dinner. You'll hopefully find something to help you get ready for the festive period and get into the Christmas spirit.

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

The Braes Councillors

Submitted by Cllr Malcolm Nicol

Braes Councillors

Smells

The last fortnight has brought numerous complaints about smells from Avondale hanging over many areas of Polmont. Landfills, such as Avondale are regulated not by the council but by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. In response to concerns about the most recent round of odour nuisance I have received the following from them-

"There are a number of ongoing engineering works which have resulted in odours off site. On Tuesday 8th November, two SEPA officers investigated and substantiated offensive odour beyond the installation boundary. a warning letter informing the site of a breach of the odour condition of their permit was issued. Following inspection by SEPA and an investigation on site, it was found that the capping seal around a horizontal gas well exit had broken and was subsequently repaired. A further site inspection was carried out by SEPA staff on Wednesday 16th November when no off site odour was detected.

SEPA will continue to monitor the site and will respond to all complaints from the public."

Well that is all very well but these smells are becoming far to frequent and SEPA really have to get to grips with the problem and soon! It is not good enough to continue to find reasons for failure (important though that is)-the failures need to stop occurring and SEPA have to be tougher. It is not right for people to have to put up with these smells. Please assist by making SEPA aware of any views you may have on this problem- 01786 452595

Lighting

The Co-op have had problems over the last couple of weeks with the lighting that they have responsibility for which illuminates their carpark as well as the area between the shops and the Millfield. Hopefully by the time you read this they will have them back on.

It's what I do!

Someone asked if I ever get fed up dealing with peoples problems, week in week out, and the answer is a big NO. One of the reasons being is that the issues that I am asked to assist with are so varied - looking back my files for the first 3 weeks of November I have dealt with 97 individual Queries / complaints /enquiries from constituents in Lower Braes-and pretty varied they are

- 22 were related to council Housing including allocation, maintenance and the dreaded neighbour disputes.
- 9 were queries on Social Work
- 6 winter maintenance programme queries
- 11 were on planning issues
- 7 related to roads and transport matters
- 6 have been related to council tax/ housing benefits
- 8 on Education related subjects
- 5 (an unusually low number!) have been bin and special uplift problems
- 14 on Environmental issues, the aforementioned smells/ heavy flaring and the remainder on one off items of concern to constituents.

So as always, if you would like me to take up any council issues on your behalf please email:

Malcolm.Nicol@falkirk.gov.uk

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The Braes Councillors Continued

Remembrance Sunday



It was good to see so many wreaths being laid at our local memorial- testament that those who have given their lives for our country are certainly not forgotten.

My article about local hero Captain Morris drew a good response and happily I have a photograph, courtesy of the Falkirk Community Trust, of the gallant airman.

Captain Morris is the airman on the left of the Photo

Malcolm Nicol — email: Malcolm.Nicol@falkirk.gov.uk

Polmont Rotary Club of Polmont

Submitted by Ian Maclean



Rotary Shoebox Appeal Takes Off in the Braes schools Shieldhill Primary School is sending 100 Rotary Shoeboxes to Eastern Europe.

Each box is marked for either a boy or girl or a teenager. Polmont Rotary through our International Committee is sending about 200 boxes to a collection point in Perth so that they can be packed into a container for Bulgaria.

President Ian, International Convener Nancy and President Elect Susan are peering through the wall of Rotary Shoeboxes at Shieldhill Primary School where some of the Primary 6 pupils had their photograph taken by the Falkirk Herald. Braes High School and Laurieston Primary School also participated in this project which will bring a smile to those less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas.



Almost there!!

Over 200 Rotary Shoeboxes are loaded into Tom's People Carrier before adding another 30 from Land and Sea. Nancy and Tom delivered them to a depot in Perth in readiness for transporting them to Rotary Clubs in eastern Europe for distribution to families in need. A small Christmas gift for those who may have some difficult days in their lives.

Polmont Rotary answers a cry for help from Poppy Scotland.

Polmont Rotary came to the rescue of Poppy Scotland by distributing over 4,000 poppies and 65 collection cans to shops, churches, schools and other public services in Linlithgow prior to Armistice Day. The local co-ordinator and usual set of distributors were not available, but plans are being up in place for next year. All the cans have been returned to Poppy Scotland in Edinburgh.

Thanks to Ian, Nancy, Alan, David and Norman from Polmont Rotary.

Factory Tour - Let Alexander Dennis take the strain out of Coaching.

A vocational visit to Alexander Dennis in Camelon was a great success. We were shown an educational DVD which elicited many questions about the operation of Alexander Dennis UK before being given a conducted tour of the factory. At present, the company is fulfilling a large order for the London Olympics 2012 as well as developing and producing hybrid double and single-decked buses.

Volunteering / Joining Rotary — please visit and contact the club via our website www.polmontrotary.org

Community Police

Submitted by PC Colin Richardson

Community Police

Misuse of Fireworks

Members of the community regularly phone complaining about adults and youths throwing lit fireworks about the street, setting them off from balconies and out car windows as well as other forms of misuse. This behaviour will not be tolerated. Fireworks are explosives and can be very dangerous if the proper care is not taking when using them. Fireworks can easily explode in your hand and should only be lit within open areas, taking the appropriate safety precautions. I urge every member of the community not to take part in this dangerous behaviour. You could very easily hurt yourself, not to mention other members of the public. Also, if you see anyone misusing fireworks please contact Central Scotland Police immediately on (01786) 456000.

PACT: November Update

With reference to the November PACT for Polmont and Brightons, as I previously stated the youth disorder has been greatly improved through a multi agency approach, extra patrols and information received from the community. However I intend to keep the PACT running for another month at least just to reinforce the robust police action that has been taken which has resulted in the dispersal of the large groups. I have reviewed calls over the last month and I am pleased to say there are no new emerging trends. As such I do not intend to raise any new PACTS at this time. However should anything come to light or be a concern for anyone please do not hesitate to contact myself Tel 01786 456000, or through the Email on the police web pages.

Prepare for Winter

You may have seen some new adverts on TV regarding preparing for winter and any bad weather which it throws at us. Now is a good time to put a few things in your car or purchasing things like a snow shovel etc. If you would like any information or advice regarding what to do in preparation please take a look at the following website which gives loads of good advice for yourself and neighbours who may need to be helped.

<http://www.readyscotland.org>

Drugs Information

There has recently been a drugs operation in the Redding area which proved to be very successful. This was due to the vigilance of members of the public reporting suspicious activity and forwarding information to the police as and when they see it. Although there does not appear to be a drugs problem in the Polmont or Brightons area there have been instances of drugs activity being uncovered. I urge everyone to report anything they see which they believe to be drugs activity in order that I can move things forward with a view to resolving such matters.

Asbit Patrols 18th/19th November

The ASBIT patrol on Friday night was conducted by myself and PC Wallace, PC Stirling and PC McAlister. we were a high visibility mobile and foot patrol in as many areas as we could be. There was a serious incident at Bowhouse roundabout which interrupted matters but during the night there were relatively few calls. There was one call regarding youth at the Whiteside Hotel in Polmont but on tracing them they had no alcohol, were not drunk and just in boisterous spirits. There were moved on and went on their way without any trouble.

I am pleased to say the Asbit patrol on Saturday was equally quiet and the number of youth disorder calls were at a minimum. Other agencies were also out and about such as youth workers and community safety wardens and no major issues were found. Also no youths were found in possession of alcohol.

Youth Disorder Brightons

The issue of youth disorder in Brightons has greatly reduced as previously reported. However there appears to be a small group of youths still intent on being a nuisance. If anyone sees five or six youths heading through the Brightons area back towards Maddiston and they are chapping doors or running through gardens etc, please call the police with as much information as you can get and we will endeavour to trace them and identify them.

Broken windows Wallacestone Primary school

Some time prior to the 11th November 2011 two windows were broken at Wallacestone Primary school. If anyone has any information regarding this please could they contact myself Tel 01786 456000 or through crimestoppers Tel 0800 111555

Paying workmen up front

There is an increasing practice with workmen looking for local jobs to offer to conduct work right away but ask for the cash up front. This is extremely ill advised and can leave you out of pocket with little or no work done, or no way of redressing badly done work once it is complete. Never pay anyone up front fully, at the most you should consider only a small cash deposit to secure the workman's services. He should then purchase what he needs and pay his men and when you are happy with the work you should pay him. Anyone coming to your door asking to be paid up front may not be reliable and you should think twice about employing him.

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

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Website: www.greenparkcentre.org