

FORTH & DISTRICT NEWS

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the Forth & District Newsletter.

This is a regular publication, available free to households in Forth, Climpy, Braehead, Wilsontown and the local area, to share details of the work being done by the groups and organisations within Forth and the local community, to advertise forthcoming local events and trades, and to share other news and views.

We invite all local community groups to submit articles on their work, advertise their events and share information about themselves. Please send information to forth.news@mail.com

Beautiful Scotland 2015 – Forth awarded Silver Gilt this year

Flourishing Forth was awarded Silver Gilt at this year's Beautiful Scotland awards and the trophy is currently on display in William McCafferty Family Butchers in Main Street. Forth scored particularly highly in the Community Involvement sections of the competition, with the judges commenting particularly on the children speaking positively about their projects. The judges overall summing up reads as follows :- "Community involvement is the hallmark of this former mining village. Even on a dull and rain soaked day the enthusiasm of local groups shone through. Impressive progress has been made over the past year in getting the group's Polytunnel base up and operating again. Flourishing Forth is certainly well named". A big "Thank you" to all who participated in this event, from keeping your own gardens clean, helping with planning the barrels and baskets and watering them.

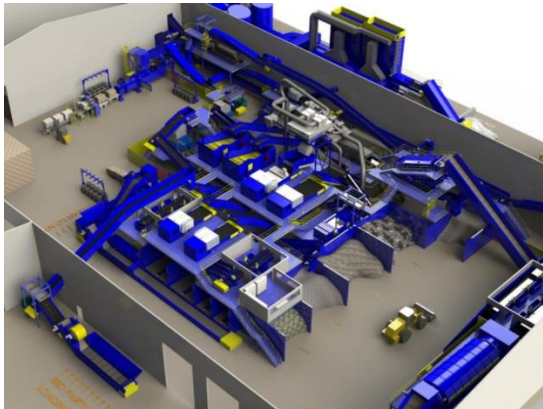
Christmas Lights switch on – Sunday November 22nd, 4:00pm

The committee agreed unanimously to invite Peter McCallum to switch on the Christmas lights this year and we are delighted to announce that Peter has accepted the invitation. Thanks to the generosity of the local community, Forth Initiative Group has purchased seven new light fixtures this year at a cost of over £3600, to replace those damaged by the strong winds which sometimes grace our village so look out for the brand new designs which will be found at various locations along Main Street.

White House War Memorial

We are trying to ascertain whether any names have been missed off of the War Memorial situated at the front of the White House so that, where pertinent, they may be added. If you know of anyone who has given the ultimate sacrifice in the course of their military service in any armed conflict, whether in the two World Wars or subsequently, please let us know so that we can research them.

New Waste Treatment Facility to Increase Recycling Rates



Levenseat's New Waste Treatment facility is set to be up and running by July 2017 and consists of an advanced Materials Recovery Facility and a Combined Heat and Power Plant. Our facility is part of a new generation of energy from waste plants, designed to meet strict emission standards, and provide valuable low carbon energy.

What is Energy from Waste?

Energy from waste is about taking waste and turning it into a useable form of energy. All materials that arrive at Levenseat will first be sorted and all recyclable material such as, plastics, paper, wood and metals will be removed. The remaining waste known as residual waste will then be prepared for processing through the Energy from Waste Plant. Our Energy from Waste facility allows energy to be produce from waste that would have otherwise been landfilled.

HIGHER RECYCLING RATES GUARANTEED

Our Materials Recovery Facility will be built by Machinex, a world leader in the industry who have developed cutting edge sorting, waste management and recycling technology. The facility is designed to extract recyclates such as paper, cardboard, plastics, metals and wood by using air separators and optical sorting units, the very latest in recycling technology. The remaining residual waste is then prepared to be processed through the power plant.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- The new Treatment facility will create 50 permanent jobs as well as 100 jobs during construction.
- Once built Levenseat will be the largest integrated recycling and waste management facility in Scotland.
- The energy produced is known as a partially renewable energy source.
- In 2010, estimated emissions from bonfires lit for Guy Fawkes celebrations, were greater than those created by all Energy from Waste Plants in the UK for the entire year.
- The development will save 1.4 million tonnes of waste from going to Landfill
- Levenseat has a Community Liaison group that meets three times a year where members of the local community can come and learn first-hand about our operations, raise any concerns and share opinions. If anyone would like to join please contact Pamela Knox-Welsh at pamelakw@levenseat.co.uk or
- 01501 771 185

POWERING 25,000 HOMES WHILST REDUCING GAS EMISSION

The Power Plant will be built using proven technology developed by Outotec, a world leader in EfW technology. The plant is fed with a prepared fuel conveyed directly from the recycling facility. The thermal treatment process releases the energy from the waste and syngas is produced. The syngas is used to raise high pressure steam through a boiler system to generate electricity and the exhaust gases are cleaned up through a scrubbing and filtration system to fully meet the EU emission standards.

The development is expected to supply electricity for the National Grid equivalent to the needs of nearly 25,000 homes over its lifespan. It is also expected to save 1.4 million tonnes of waste from going into landfill and deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of around 1.3 million tonnes.

Can you help transform Forth's Greenspaces?

Do you live or work in Forth and use its greenspaces or do you simply have an interest in how they are used? Then join us for a place evaluation event on Saturday 14 November, 1 - 3pm, Bankhall, Climpy Road, Forth. Tea & coffee and refreshments will be available from 12.30.

Local groups in Forth and Greenspace Scotland are pioneering a new approach to tackling the litter and flytipping problem identified in the community action plan. We believe that transforming "problem" spaces into attractive and usable greenspaces will reduce the problems of litter and flytipping.

The aim of the event is to bring together local people and groups along with local organisations, agencies and South Lanarkshire Council to help the community create a vision for how their local greenspace will function, look and be managed in the future.

The event is free to attend, but booking is essential, so we know how many to cater for.

Please book your place here :- <http://forthplaceevent.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information you can email to :- info@greenspacescotland.org.uk

The event is organised as part of the Forth and Greenspace Scotland Tackling litter and building communities through re-purposing greenspaces project funded by Zero Waste Scotland.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust Forth & District Launch Event.

The launch of the Forth and District Community Action Plan took place on September 13th in the Masonic Hall and copies of the Plan have been circulated to households throughout Forth. Derek Irvine from Greenspace Scotland gave a presentation on the Zero Waste project inviting the local community to support this. A drop-in event to promote this will take place in November – see item below.

Development Trust for Forth and District

Following the recent presentation by Development Trust Scotland to the community, if you would now like to register your interest/involvement in making this happen, you are being asked to attend Bankhall on Sat. 14th Nov where there will be a drop-in event from 10am – 3pm. This is open to individuals and groups who would like to make a difference in the community.

This coincides with the Zero Waste (Greenspace) project also taking place in Bankhall on the same day.

Braehead Scottish Women's Rural Institute (Braehead Rural)

Have you ever.....

- Been nose to nose with an alpaca?
- Made a Christmas tree from old bottle tops?
- Had your silver marks identified?

If you can answer yes to one or more of the above then you probably know about us already! Meetings are held in Braehead Hall at 7.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, watch the local news in the Gazette for details of who our guest speaker is & what the competitions are for that month. If you're not sure about joining (we're a friendly bunch, honest) then why not pop along to the next meeting you like the sound of and for a visitors fee of £2 you can "try before you buy". You'll get tea and cake after the speaker and a chance to chat to some members about what we get up to.



The Syllabus this year started with "Soapy bubbles" in September. Jess Smith visits us in October and will entertain us with some "Travellers' Tales" and some songs. November is "handbags & glad rags" - Handbag Parties bring along a selection of purses, bags, scarves and some jewellery, prices are generally at least 15% cheaper than in the shops. We would love to welcome new visitors on this night, everyone loves a bargain and it is perfect timing for Christmas presents.

Hands-on jewellery making in December. Professor Anthony Busutilli OBE will talk about pathology & forensic medicine in January. February gives you the chance to learn about healthy eating with plenty of flavour. March sees us hosting "matter of opinion" where a team of four invited guests have a lively debate about current topics provided by the audience.

Whist Drives in February & October take place at the Village Hall. If you don't have a table of four, don't worry, you will still be able to play as we always have a few members on standby to make up a team.

If you require any further information please contact April on 01555 812135 / 07833 684074 / or send an e-mail to :- april1901@icloud.com

Reporting Street Lighting issues in Forth

If you see a faulty light, please phone 01698 459447 and report it, if possible including the street light number which is present on all light posts. Between May and August single street lights that are out will not be attended to other than during other routine works. Between September and April single street lights that are out will be attended to within 30 working days. You can also report the fault on the Council website, www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk by using the search facility for "Report a light".

Councillor Catherine McClymont has also volunteered to report them for you, you can contact her on 01698 454945 or send her an e-mail to :- Catherine.McClymont@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dogs from both sides

In the Coalfields Community Futures action plan for Forth and District, adults and children were agreed that dog fouling is a problem. 16.5% of children and 20% of adults dislike dog fouling. No one likes to step in dog's mess, it stinks and kids will often bring it into the house without realising. It is awful to try and set up a picnic blanket when the area is surrounded by poop. Who wants to eat a picnic within sight or smell of a pile of dog poo? Dog mess can also be a health hazard to humans and to livestock.

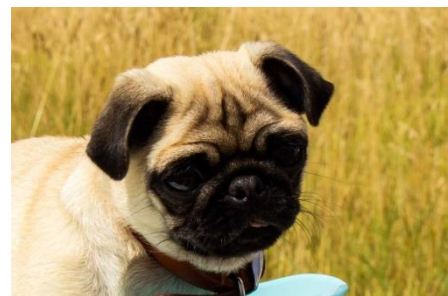


I am a dog owner myself and pick up after my dogs, but find the lack of waste bins a deterrent to doing so. Yes, the foul package belongs to you and your dog but who wants to carry it around on a long walk in the sunshine? The dreaded bag gets in the way when trying to throw a ball for your dog. Worse still is having to place the bag in a hot car until you get home and can put it in the black bin. But for all that, picking up your dog's mess is the right thing to do. It is possible to buy special containers which are waterproof and smell-proof so that you can put your doggy bags into a rucksack or any other bag you are carrying and then tip the contents in the first bin you see or the one at home. These containers are not cheap but an alternative is to purchase an air tight sandwich container and use that.

Dog owners, please pick up after your dogs and keep our footpaths and green areas free from piles of poo. South Lanarkshire Council and Forestry Commission Scotland - you can help with this request by providing more dog waste bins please AND emptying them regularly.

Now a request from dog owners. Most dog owners try to ensure that their dog is well behaved and not a nuisance to other people, but we all come across people who want to clap any dog they meet on a walk. This is our plea. If the owner of a dog is calling their dog back to them, please ignore the dog. The second you talk to the dog, make a fuss of it, or worse still give it food, you are rewarding the dog for ignoring its owner. It is like a parent trying to teach a child not to speak to strangers when everyone the child meets wants to give them sweets. So if the owner recalls their dog, please ignore it until it is back with the owner and you can ask if you can fuss the dog.

You sometimes hear dog owners shout "Please don't let him jump up". It is bad manners for a dog to place its muddy paws on a person and some folk hate it. The reply that comes back to the owner is so often "I don't mind, I like dogs". As soon as anyone claps, speaks to or gives food to a dog that jumps up, they are rewarding the dog for this bad behaviour. The dog will then expect the next person to like being jumped on too. The owner is then faced with the hard task of getting the dog out of the habit of jumping up. If a dog jumps up at you, put your hands up and ignore the dog until all four feet are on the ground, or turn your back on the dog.



Keva Dog Training, promoting good manners from dogs and owners.

Have Your Say

We invite views from residents on local events and life in the community. We will endeavour to print as many as we can but reserve the right to reject or edit any submission that is defamatory, libellous, or discriminatory. You may contact us via e-mail to forth.news@mail.com or via the website at www.forthinitiative.org

Forthcoming Events

Every Tuesday and Thursday – Job Club 1:00pm – 2:00pm, Forth Community Resource Centre, Hawkwood Terrace. Access to internet, help with PC's and CV's and training opportunities.

Wednesday evenings – Dog Training, St Paul's Church Hall. Various classes and times are available, please contact Valerie from Keva Dog Training for more details on 01555 811969 or see her website www.kevadogtraining.co.uk

November 2015

Saturday 14th November – Forth Greenspace Evaluation event, Bankhall, Climpy Road from 1 – 3pm.

Sunday 22nd November – Christmas Lights switch on, at 4:00pm in Main Street, following the traditional church service in St Paul's church.

December 2015

Saturday 12th December – Christmas Dinner Dance, Masonic Hall, Main Street. Details and tickets from Jim Beveridge.

Thursday 31st December – Through the Bells, Masonic Hall, Mains Street. Tickets from Jim Beveridge.

Thursday 31st December – New Year's Party – Details from Forth British Legion.

Councillor's Surgeries (No surgeries are held during school or public holidays).

Councillor Catherine McClymont - 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:30pm to 6:55pm in Braehead Hall then from 7:00pm at Forth Primary School (Please note NEW TIMES).

Councillor Ed Archer - 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at Forth Primary School.

Councillor Vivienne Shaw - 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:45pm to 7:15pm in Braehead Hall then from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at Forth Sports and Community Centre.

Gala Day June 2015

The annual Forth Children's Gala Day took place on Saturday June 20th and the weather was reasonably kind, the rain stayed away until after the parade and Crowning Ceremony were completed. Abbey Gibson was crowned "Queen of the Heather" by Crowning Lady Karin Hynes. Her Herald was Andrew Rennie. The remainder of the Court consisted of Maids Abbie Sanderson, Erin Hood, Becky Rae, Fern Nimmo, Sophie Thompson and Kaitlyn Wood, Flower Girls Solveigh Tindall, Katie Cralik, Lola Rose Kaye, Freya King, Ava McMorran, Rachel Fairlie, Ruth Thomson and Charley Mackie. Page Boys were Lucas Steele and Harry Thomson, Escorts were Alan Hunter and Gavin Clarke. The 2015 Chairman was Alan Morton. The best dressed house was awarded jointly to "My Little Pony" and "Paddington Bear". Next year's Gala Day will be on Saturday 18th June and will be the 80th Anniversary of the event. More details and pictures can be found at the Gala Day website at :- <http://www.forthgaladay.com/home.html>



ECO Polytunnel Relocation

The polytunnel is now up and running under the watchful eyes of Laura Gilchrist and CCI. The polytunnel is open to volunteers and the public from 10:00am to 2:00pm Mondays to Thursdays.

There will also be a special Open Day on Saturday 31st October from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, all welcome.

We plan to install additional solar energy panels soon to meet the requirements of the new site including the office and kitchen area and the planned polytunnel extension.



We look forward to working with Laura and CCI over the remainder of the initial two year contract. Future plans for enhancing and developing the Eco site will include running practical training and volunteer programs in a range of activities; consulting with the community to explain the aims and benefits of using the Eco Site; recruit and train volunteers in areas such as health and wellbeing; developing employability skills in areas such as heritage or conservation works, signposting to other opportunities within the district. We also hope to enhance the Gateway features and continue to improve our local area. We hope that members of the community will come along and participate in the planned activities, maybe even volunteer to help out, and develop the site into a place that young and old can come along and enjoy. Remember the site belongs to the whole community.

We are still keen to attract new volunteers to assist at the Polytunnel – if you are interested in doing so, please contact us via the website or by e-mail to forth.news@mail.com.

Lodge 236 Wilsontown Ironworks St John Annual Walk, June 2015

The annual Masonic Walk took place on Saturday June 27th and was attended by representatives from lodges across Scotland as well as visitors from England. The parade was led by Peebles Ex-Servicemen's Pip Band and the parade marched from the lodge to the home of the RWM, where he was saluted before he joined the parade. It then marched from Main Street through Carmuir to Manse Road, and then through Wilsontown to the site of the old lodge at the old store. After some refreshments, the parade returned along the A706 to the Lodge where the master was saluted again before the parade retired into the Lodge for a meal and Harmony. This is the only time Masons wear their regalia in public except for Masonic Funerals.



RWM Jim Beveridge (centre rear) with escort party



The office bearers of Lodge 236 outside the old store

Pictures courtesy of Keva Photography

Forth Nature Notes (Article and pictures by the Wildlife Lady - www.wildlifelady.co.uk)

The year has gone by so quickly, it seems like it was just yesterday that we were waiting for the return of summer breeding birds. There were plenty of warblers around with many birds breeding in the surrounding woods. I often heard the sound of young buzzards calling to their parents for food. Now it is the turn of the winter migrants to return. The skies above Forth and the surrounding villages have been witness to the long V's and calls of the migrating pink footed geese. The geese will soon be joined by redwings and fieldfares, both members of the thrush family. Bramblings (in the top picture) which are sometimes mistaken for chaffinches, are a welcome addition to any bird feeder. If we are really lucky we may get to see the colourful Waxwings (bottom picture) who sometimes migrate here from Scandinavia. The early return of some geese and swans has led to some speculation in the news that we are going to experience a hard winter, let's hope not.



A bird that can suffer in a hard winter, the Goldcrest, has been filling our surrounding coniferous woodland with their calls. The diminutive Goldcrest weighs only 6.5 grams and is our smallest bird. The name comes from the little gold mark on the top of their heads.

While you are out walking, look for mushrooms and toadstools. Some are edible but do not try any unless you are 100% sure of what you are doing as some can be fatal if eaten. Head for mixed woodland areas to see the great autumn colours on the trees.



This summer I have noticed a lot of field signs in the area of my favourite UK mammal, the badger. There are numerous badger paths in the woods and some latrines. Badgers use the same paths night after night and even for generations, so leave a distinctive track showing where they have walked. They generally defecate in small holes which they dig for this purpose called latrines. These also act as a warning to other badgers that there is a family of badgers in the area. Badgers do not hibernate in the winter but are much less active having spent the autumn season putting on weight to see them through the lean winter months. The favourite food of the badger is the earth worm, but they will eat almost anything they come across.

Disclaimer : The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the Forth Initiative Group.