

This newsletter is produced jointly by Action Old Kilpatrick (AOK) and Old Kilpatrick Community Council (OKCC) for all residents of the village.

## VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

*By Isobel Plunkett, Old Kilpatrick Community Council chair and AOK co-chair.*

Recently AOK and Community Council volunteers enjoyed a dinner at the Twisted Thistle, during which the chat turned to "how do we encourage more people to get involved?"

Do we gently persuade or do we highlight the message of "do you want to live and bring up your children in a nice environment? Then do something!"

The conversation then went on to talk about some of the comments on various social media pages, everyone seems to have an opinion, and that's easy when you are a keyboard warrior but putting words into action seems a step too far.

There are a couple of sayings that spring to mind "if you're not involved then you get what you get" and the other one is "the positivity of the action is better than the negativity of the thought".

We want a village where everyone is included and involved in making this a great place to live. We need people with all sorts of skills and none - we'll support anyone who wants to join us!

How lucky are we that we can count on others, for example the Scouts, who in one day created a fantastic outside cinema in their grounds for the Village Panto to be screened! And others who play their part by donations to ongoing work like Paul Uppal, who has always supported the Santa Parade, to Craig the Barber and June at Cutz, who always donate to our causes, and the Twisted Thistle for hosting our meetings. There are many others too who offer their help and we thank them all.

We need more volunteers to help with maintenance of the village planters and flower beds, in our community greenhouse, with organising events or just with coming up with ideas. If this is you, please get in touch. You can contact us on Facebook, chat to us in person when we're working around the village, or come to our events or meetings.



## GARDENING DAYS

Volunteers regularly meet for gardening sessions - join us if you can spare a few hours! No experience required and tools will be provided.

Every first Saturday of the month  
meet at village shops at 10am



The three planters that AOK established some years ago were in need of refreshment, to create a colourful display to welcome people entering the village. AOK put in a bid to assist with the funding of some new plants, and as runners-up, we were fortunate enough to receive £100 for this.

We decided to focus on the planter at the Bowling entrance to the village, which needed the most work, and the money was spent on new plants there. AOK volunteers put the plants in, and the planter is looking significantly rejuvenated.

# OLD KILPATRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## DO YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

It is 50 years since the formation of Community Councils in Scotland.

Community Councils are the first tier of democracy in this country and are the conduit between the Community and the Local Authority.

Since then Old Kilpatrick has been represented by a number of volunteers who have dedicated their time and energies to being positively involved in their community.

West Dunbartonshire Council are planning to recognise their input later in the summer.

If you too would like to offer your assistance then please come and get involved!

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the church hall. Our meetings are public and everyone is welcome!

## VILLAGE TRUST NOTICE

Local authority cuts are impacting small communities like ours. Following the loss of the Napier Hall as a community owned facility, a few people got together to lay down the foundations of a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The current local voluntary organisations are limited by their constitutions in what they can legally do. SCIOs provides a high degree of protection against liability and would allow us to apply for larger sums of money.

We're looking for some people to help. If you have skills in finance, grant applications, construction, engineering or if you're interested in heritage, please volunteer. It won't be time demanding.

Old Kilpatrick Community Council has consulted with the community and established a wish list of things the community wants to see improved; projects like the Lusset Glen and perhaps in time the creation of a community hub. The creation of the Village Trust is the first step on the way.

Look out for the inaugural meeting being advertised soon.



## REDISCOVERING THE ANTONINE WALL

The *Rediscovering the Antonine Wall* project have been hosting a number of workshops and walks in the area, the aim of which was to produce a community map of the Antonine Wall as it passes through West Dunbartonshire.

Those who participated thoroughly enjoyed the events and lots of discussion took place about the history of the area.

Please look out for the publication and find more information on their website and social media pages.

Web: [rediscoveringtheantoninewall.org](http://rediscoveringtheantoninewall.org)  
Facebook: @AntonineWallScotland  
Instagram: @antoninewall

*Please note "Vinny the Vintner" has returned to the Lusset Glen!*



## TEA AND TECH

The Community Council knows that there are many in the community who feel cut off from online services because they don't feel confident about their computing skills.

This introductory session is intended to get people started or help with particular issues. If you or a member of your family would like some help come along on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 11-1pm and we'll help get you started and point you to other help that's available. Drop a message to the Community Council Facebook page - ask a friend if you don't have access yourself.

## DOORS OPEN DAY

Doors Open Day comes to Old Kilpatrick, in a small way, on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Florence Boyle will be leading a graveyard talk - meet at the Church gates at 11am. If you've been before there's new content. If you have not come before, there's loads of interesting stories about our ancestors. Check out the Doors Open Day programme for other events.



# OLD KILPATRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



## COMMUNITY LED LOCAL PLACE PLAN

The Community Council were successful in their recent application for funds to complete a Local Place Plan.



It is hoped that this will be completed in conjunction with Community Links Scotland based in Clydebank.

A Local Place plan allows for communities to have a say in their green spaces and spatial planning in their community, hopefully an Action Plan will also be produced following all the consultations.

This is your opportunity to have a say in the care, maintenance and development of our community. The Community Council is planning to visit a number of areas in the village throughout the summer.

Watch out for the red sofa, come and let us know the issues that cause concern and why Old Kilpatrick is a great place to live.



If you are interested in participating in this project then please get in touch with the Community Council.

## WAR MEMORIAL IMPROVEMENTS



More improvements are planned for the War Memorial Park and St Patrick's Well. The West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association came to look

at the sites and have agreed to complete the work for a nominal charge. It's up to us to provide the materials and we are already looking for grant money.

As well as being an attractive feature, it is also a very low maintenance and sustainable option for our greenspaces and will provide a bit more shelter in cooler days.

## COMMUNITY SOUP

The first Community Soup event was recently held in the village.



Community Soup is a crowd funding event which brings people together to provide financial support for projects and ideas that happen in the local community. You listen to groups pitch ideas which benefit their community in some way, you enjoy a bowl of soup and then you vote for the idea you think should be funded.

It was great to see some 70 villagers taking part. They listened to representatives from each organisation involved and following some input from the "Dragons" everyone was able to cast their vote. OK Stay and Play group won!

Lots of new connections were made and everyone had a great time. Hopefully this will be the first of many such evenings!



## D-DAY BEACON

The 6th of June 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day and to commemorate this important day, the Old Kilpatrick Community Council laid a wreath at the war memorial and participated in the national act of lighting a beacon.

Ours was made and lit by the Glen Lusset Scouts in the Kilpatrick hills. Many thanks to them and OKFP (especially Janine) for providing the refreshments.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

We might have been delayed but our event was well attended and enjoyed. Those who came heard from Florence Boyle about the women who lived above and below stairs at Dalnottar House and enjoyed the catering provided by the Twisted Thistle.





## LITTER – COSTLY AND DANGEROUS

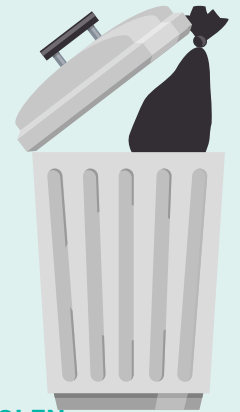
The estimated costs of litter to Scottish councils in 2023 were £48m in direct costs, i.e. collecting and disposing of litter, and a staggering £197m in indirect costs.

So, what are these indirect costs? They include things like the negative impact on residents mental health and well being, traffic accidents, car and bike punctures, wildfires (we have experienced many of these in the Kilpatrick Hills), rat damage and control, impact on wildlife and livestock due to ingestion,

and devaluation of house prices in littered areas. The good news is that the contribution of litter picking volunteers like our 2 Action Old Kilpatrick groups saves Scottish councils £2.5m per year through their 280,000 unpaid hours. However, this still leaves £245m of public money which could be spent on vital services such as social care, education, potholes, support for food banks etc.

We know money is tight for councils but litter is an entirely avoidable cost if we all remember to 'Bin It, Don't Drop It' in the first place, and where it has been dropped, to do our bit by picking it up.

Action Old Kilpatrick has been doing its bit for the last 10 years at our twice monthly litter picks at the Lusset Glen and the Saltings (details below) so do join us when you can in the fight against costly and dangerous litter.



### SALTINGS

First Sunday of each month

10:00-12:00

Meet at AOK container, Erskine Ferry Road

### LUSSET GLEN

Last Monday of each month

10:00-12:00

Meet at AOK container, Erskine Ferry Road

AOK volunteers gave over 318 hours so far this year (Jan-Jun 2024) for all AOK activities. With the village flowers beds needing a lot of maintenance in the summer and autumn, we expect this number to keep growing!



## AUTUMN ZOOM LECTURES

We are in the process of organising our Autumn programme. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page for details

Three Volunteers from Action Old Kilpatrick have now successfully completed the Paths for All Walk Leaders course.



Many thanks to Daren from WDCVS who put us through our paces!

Please watch out for details regarding this new initiative.

## ACTION OLD KILPATRICK

Get in touch:

[info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk](mailto:info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk)

Visit our website:

[actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk](http://actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk)

Please visit our social media for more up to date information on our activities and events



[actionoldkilpatrick](https://www.facebook.com/actionoldkilpatrick)



[action\\_ok](https://twitter.com/action_ok)



[actionoldkilpatrick](https://www.instagram.com/actionoldkilpatrick)

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