



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

Welcome to the Spring-Summer issue of the AOK and Old Kilpatrick Community Council newsletter - both organisations have been busy planning for the year ahead. You'll hopefully see lots of new events and activities in the village but we'd also like to ask you to get involved in any way you can. If you have an idea, let us know and help us make it a reality!

VILLAGE LITTER PICKS

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

Our two monthly litter picks have continued to be well attended and we have been very pleased to welcome a number of new volunteers recently. But it is a never-ending task, especially on the beach at the Saltings, so there is always plenty to do.

If neither of the regular times suit you but you would like to litter pick in your own time, AOK can supply you with a pick, gloves and bin bags – contact us on info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk.

We know that people really appreciate the work our volunteers do to keep the Saltings and Lusset Glen looking good for everyone to enjoy, so do join us if you can – you will be made very welcome.



CAN YOU HELP?



With the summer ahead of us and no more Covid restrictions, AOK are back in full swing keeping the village beautiful. But we need your help!

We currently have only a small number of volunteers and struggle to maintain the lovely flower beds around the village. Can you help us by 'adopting' a flower bed to look after? This could include watering and occasional weeding, and of course AOK will provide any support you need.



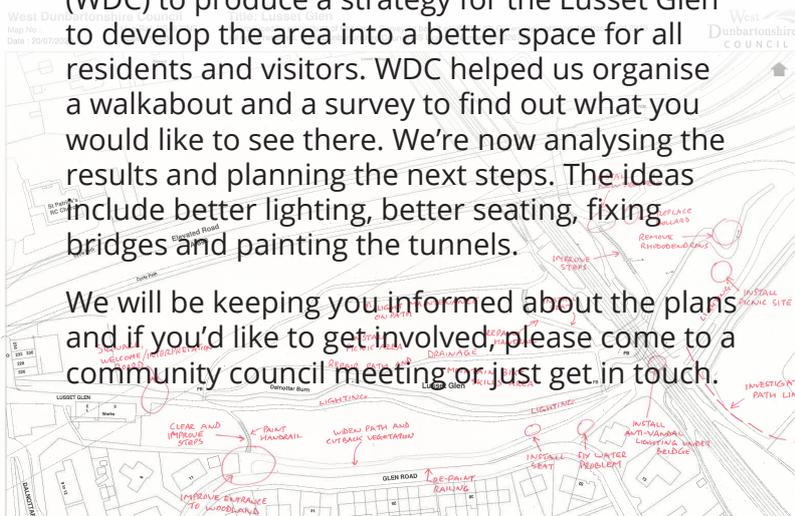
If you are interested, please email us on info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk, or speak to us when you see us out and about.



THE LUSSET GLEN

The Old Kilpatrick Community Council and AOK are working with West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) to produce a strategy for the Lusset Glen to develop the area into a better space for all residents and visitors. WDC helped us organise a walkabout and a survey to find out what you would like to see there. We're now analysing the results and planning the next steps. The ideas include better lighting, better seating, fixing bridges and painting the tunnels.

We will be keeping you informed about the plans and if you'd like to get involved, please come to a community council meeting or just get in touch.



ACTION OLD KILPATRICK

The AOK Gardening Group continues to maintain and improve the adopted beds and borders in the village, in particular in front of the shops, church corner and foot of Station Road. Many of the plants first installed when AOK started have reached maturity and need a bit of trimming to keep their appearance or need to be replaced. We have recently benefited from some funding through the Council's Community Budgeting initiative and this along with our own fund raising, has allowed us to buy nearly 100 new plants to decorate the village this summer and beyond.

The maintenance and improvement activities need enthusiastic volunteers so if you think you could help, no experience required, do watch out for our gardening sessions listed in this newsletter. You will be very welcome.



MAINTENANCE 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
10am**



KILPATRICK STATION

By Carolyn Hutchison

Adopt a Station work had been on hold due to the pandemic but we're back on, ready to go with plans for 2022.

We've already started by digging up 50m² of turf and building a beetle hotel. This is a massive task and could only be achieved with the great support from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) providing ideas, tools and 14 helping hands over 2 days. The next step is to cover with bark and colourful shrubs to make a more pleasing embankment. TCV have also offered to help with this too.

Our wildflower area has been seeded so look out for the flowers and a new birdbox. With this area we are hoping to encourage bees, birds and butterflies and increase the biodiversity.

More climbers have been added to disguise the fence with year-round colour.

The planters still require some TLC so these will be tidied up after the bulbs have stopped flowering and colourful bedding put in to brighten up the platform.

If anyone wishes to help and become an Adopt a Station volunteer please get in touch through our Facebook or email info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk.





OLD KILPATRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

HAVE YOUR SAY!

We're now getting back to some sense of normality and we've gone from knowing about Zoom and team meetings to a new way of working...

It has been noted by a number of organisations that it has become harder to encourage volunteers to get back into the swing of things. Old Kilpatrick Community Council has been meeting regularly throughout the past year and has tried to continue with its plans to encourage and develop services that benefit the community.

For example we have been involved in the review of "The Scheme of Establishment" regarding Community Councils in West Dunbartonshire, which has now been completed and we hope that the Western Isles Estate will formally be adopted into Old Kilpatrick Community Council district.

We have undertaken consultation on the development of the Lusset Glen and have been encouraged by the response to our plans.

We were delighted by the support received for the village pantomime and will continue to support the Old Kilpatrick Village Players.

However, we can only hope to encourage, develop and support initiatives that benefit the community when we have residents who are prepared to give of their talents and are prepared to put something back into their community.

The Community Council is the first link in democracy and is also the link into the Local Authority.

If you are able to offer any assistance, have skills that could be used then please get in touch.

"The positivity of the action is better than the negativity of the thought."

VILLAGE PANTOMIME

A Kilpatrick Christmas Carol took place following all sorts of difficulties surrounding Covid regulations which impacted on cast, venue and final performances.

The Community Council was able to, with support of the National Lottery, commission local artists to write, produce, direct and encourage community members to perform a village pantomime.

This was a real community effort which had a cast from 3 years old to mid seventies! And they had the local ukulele crew too!

Local businesses helped too - they had support from Paul and Angela from Figaros who kept the group hydrated by bringing tea/coffee to all the rehearsals. Thanks also to Suds and Spuds for all their help. The local Scouts assisted by providing rehearsal space as did OKFP Hub.

West Dunbartonshire Council Arts and Heritage Department lent equipment as did the National Theatre of Scotland Costume Department.

Plus all the others - you know who you are!

We are indebted to our fabulous young Scout Leaders who pulled together an outdoor film theatre for the performance. A special thanks to our own adopted villagers Nic, Pete and Skye!

The weekend was fabulous, definitely something really special sitting around a campfire watching the village perform!!



Old Kilpatrick Community Council meetings:

Every second Tuesday of the month
7:30pm (currently in the Twisted Thistle but hopefully back in Napier Hall soon)

Come along or contact us on info@oldkilpatrickcc.org.uk for more information.

WOMEN OF OLD KILPATRICK

by Florence Boyle

A large part of the history of this area is told through the eyes of the men who made the Clyde; the engineers, shipbuilders, and mariners. There are stories of women, it means you just have to look a lot harder. The International Women's Day function at the Community Hub was an opportunity to applaud the unsung women.

In the days before Clydebank was built Old Kilpatrick was the administrative and political centre of a much larger geographical area. Sparsely populated and largely concerned with weaving and textiles it was still touched by some of the big issues of the day, not least the purge on witches which stretched from the mid 16th century to the end of the 17th century. Three women with local connections were prosecuted under the Witchcraft Act and one unnamed woman was summarily executed near a spot called Sandyford, which can now be located near the Erskine Bridge off ramp, close to Mount Pleasant Drive. That should be marked, shouldn't it?

There were nurses, unsung heroes of most communities. One of the earliest reported is Margaret Robertson who "fearless 'of the consequences" nursed the sick and dressed the bodies of the dead through cholera and typhoid outbreaks in the mid-19th century.

In 1903, less than 10 years after the first woman graduated from Glasgow University, Jane Gilmour from Duntocher, daughter of one GP and sister of another, graduated in Medicine. Arguably she was the first woman in Dunbartonshire to graduate in Medicine. Hard to know, no one has kept those records or marked that achievement. She left Scotland and spent her working life in Public Health in London, primarily concerned with the health of women and children. Members of her family are buried in Old Kilpatrick graveyard.

For many women WW1 was an opportunity for independence and a chance to make a direct contribution. Elizabeth Anne Cockburn Hughes a daughter of medical missionaries gave her address as care of the Rev Falconer, The Manse in Hardgate. Aged 44 when she signed up, by the end of the war she had served in five hospitals in Northern France and the UK. Twenty-one-year-old Anna Forbes from Clydebank served in Salonika, Greece between 1917 and 1918. They were not all nurses, in the last few months of the War, twenty-year-old Agnes Muir from Dalmuir left to work as a ward orderly in northern France she stayed for another

NO MONEY? NO PROBLEM!



**ALL FOOD AT OKFP'S
COMMUNITY PANTRY
IS COMPLETELY FREE**

**OPEN MON-FRI 12-4PM
UNIT 5 STATION ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE G60 5LP**

Old Kilpatrick Food Parcels (OKFP) operate a daily pantry offering emergency food for those who need it! We also receive fresh food from local stores and we need you to help us make sure this doesn't become 'food waste'.

Come along for a cup of tea, or join in with one of our many social groups including our walking group, knitting group, art and soul group, music lessons, folk club and fitness classes. Or, if this is not for you, remember we can also offer you free wi-fi, access to a printer and photocopier, help with completion of applications and with email and other digital platforms.

For further information contact us at 07916 310806 www.okfp.org.uk or via Facebook.

year. There's barely a list of their names in existence never mind plaques honouring their service.

Annie Rhoda Craig is one of the most significant and overlooked figures. Born in Birmingham, married to a Scot, she was a leading suffragette and a member of Emmeline Pankhurst's WPSU. Annie was there when the WPSU offices opened in Glasgow in January 1908. She lived at various addresses in Dunbartonshire, was a member of the Old Kilpatrick School Board and Secretary of the Dumbarton branch of the Independent Labour Party. Self-described as the "first militant suffragette in Scotland" and the "first woman member of Dunbartonshire ILP" it was her practice of giving false names to the authorities that has made her the architect of her own obscurity in the history of the area.

She was arrested on several occasions but police failure to positively identify her meant she was often released without charge. She featured in a 2019 National Library of Scotland exhibition to mark the extension of the suffrage but she was misidentified largely because of the false trail she had left throughout her activist career. I'm grateful to staff in the National Library for helping me piece her story together. The challenge is now to re-introduce these women back into the story of their home communities.

ACTION OLD KILPATRICK

Get in touch:

info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk

Visit our website:

actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk

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



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