

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

ARE OUR LITTER PICKS MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Our regular picks in Lusst Glen and the Saltings are now in their 10th year, so is there less litter each month after a decade in which over 1,000 bags of rubbish have been collected?

The theory is that people are less likely to drop litter where there isn't any already, and more likely to drop it where they can see that other people have left litter. That's the theory! The AOK volunteers think that overall there has been a slight decrease in littering over the years but understand that a lot of litter is "blown in" to the Glen, especially from traffic on the Erskine Bridge, and that the Saltings is very well used, including by a small minority who think it is okay to drop litter. And of course, the shoreline is constantly replenished with tidal litter.

We know it is a never ending task but our regular picks do make a difference, so please come along if you can, on the last Monday of the month for the Glen and the first Sunday of the month for the Saltings (except for end of December/ beginning of January), meet at 10 am till 11.30 am at the AOK container. All equipment will be provided.

Hope to see you there.

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



THE OLD KILPATRICK WAR MEMORIAL

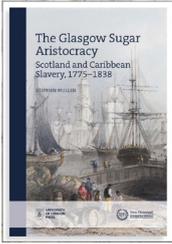
A few months ago, AOK let the community know that we had plans to give the Old Kilpatrick Memorial a facelift. Budget cutbacks to WDC landscaping and maintenance services made us think about making the layout and planting simpler which would be maintainable and look good in the future.

The work went down to the wire, but the consensus is we did it! It looks far smarter and was an appropriate backdrop to the Remembrance Sunday service. There are still a few things to do - but that's for the better weather. Thanks to the Men's Shed for the planters and to Greenspace for the work.



ACTION OLD KILPATRICK

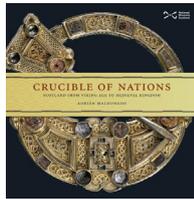
OUR VILLAGE OUR HISTORY LECTURE SERIES



We have already had two lectures in the *Our Village Our History* series. In October Dr Stephen Mullen from Glasgow University talked about the links between this area and the wealth derived from enslaved labour, particularly sugar growing in the West Indies. That wealth built the big country

estates around the west of Scotland and provided collateral for further development.

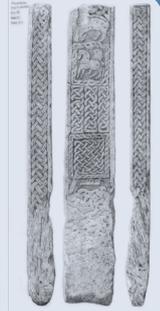
On Thursday 9th November Dr Adrian Maldonado from the National Museum of Scotland talked about the importance of the village in early Christian Strathclyde. This time we recorded the talk, and you can find the link on the AOK Facebook page (or get in touch with us and we will send it to you). Adrian spoke about a time in our history few of us living here know much about and there were some surprises, including a lot of evidence that there is indeed a connection between St Patrick and this area.



Did you know that two Viking stones which came from the village and are nearly a thousand years old are in storage in Kelvingrove? According to Adrian, to find one is unusual but two found closely together is very special. It also points to the likelihood that there is more mediaeval archaeology waiting to be found. 'Our' stones are very closely related to the Govan Stones. Who knows, maybe we'll have our own Big Dig one day?

For the next Zoom talk on the 15th of February we go international. Dr Malcolm Ward will be talking to us from Tasmania in Australia which was the original British penal colony, the place sheep stealers were sent. Malcolm will talk to us about an interesting local

OLD KILPATRICK: MEDIEVAL CONNECTIONS



The Sandyford Stone, found in Old Kilpatrick, has for decades been held in the Kelvingrove Museum Store. It is believed to be the relic of a mediaeval cross.

Sandyford was a small collection of houses and would have stood on the 'other side' of the A82 from Old Kilpatrick. At one point in its history the stone was tipped on its side and used to bridge the burn, consequently there is significant erosion on one of its faces.

At the end of the 18th century the stone was brought into the 'safekeeping' of Robert Donald at Mountblow House. Donald was a Tobacco Lord, a former Lord Provost of Glasgow, one of a small group of men who controlled Glasgow and made unimaginable wealth from their trade in tobacco.

Mountblow was Donald's country estate, he travelled by boat down the Clyde from Glasgow. His arrival point (around the old Erskine Ferry) still has references to him, namely Donald's Quay and Donald's Light.

In the early 20th century, the Sandyford Stone came into the ownership of Glasgow Corporation and from there into the Kelvingrove Museum collection.

connection between Andrew Geils of Dumbuck and Van Diemen's Land.

Details on the last talk and how to join will be available on Eventbrite and on our Facebook page.

GARDENING ACTIVITIES

Although late summer, early autumn seems to have been a busy time for AOK volunteers with holidays, family and work commitments taking priority, we have still enjoyed getting together whenever we can to work on the flowerbeds around the village. It was particularly rewarding using some of our funds to buy some new plants. Most of the new plants were added to the beds at the shops in the centre of the village so look out for new interesting shapes and colours appearing next summer.

Apart from spending some time clearing out our greenhouse space later this month in readiness for seed sowing and plant nurturing for next year, we will take some time out over the winter to recharge everyone's batteries. However, as always, we look forward to beginning again with renewed vigour in the springtime. Please come and join us if you enjoy pottering about in the fresh air, come along next spring and muck in.



OLD KILPATRICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



During the spring and summer, the Community Council were active in seeking a community solution regarding the Napier Hall.

Following advice received from officers of West Dunbartonshire Council and from third sector organisations, we were hopeful of a positive resolution which would benefit the whole community but were disappointed and discouraged by the process.

We are continuing to seek clarity and answers from West Dunbartonshire Council. The process and procedures have, we feel, been less than transparent.

The lesson learned is one that Mary Robinson the first female President of Ireland advocates:

"We have learned that democracy demands more of citizens than a passive role between elections. It is not enough to vote every few years and then sit back and let all decisions be taken by a small group. There must be constant vigilance. Where necessary there must be active participation and involvement in order to protest."

I emphasise that our concerns and grievances concern the process. We wish Old Kilpatrick Food Parcels the very best in their new venture and look forward to hearing about and seeing the developments they propose for the Napier Hall.

Isobel Plunkett, Old Kilpatrick Community Council Chair



LOCAL PLACE PLAN

The Community Council are keen to produce a local place plan which allows communities a say in developments and use of land in their areas. It gives communities new power and statutory weight.

We will be encouraging everyone to get involved and have their say about future developments.

...and if anyone has any ideas then please get in touch.

We want this to be a village that is community led.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

It has been 50 years since the inception of Community Councils in Scotland .

The West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum plan to mark this special event next year.

If anyone is interested in joining the Community Council please feel free to attend our meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

OLD KILPATRICK PLAYERS 2023

We are absolutely delighted that once again, this multi-generational group (born during Covid) are in production with Hydra Arts and friends for their third village pantomime.

Please save the dates:

Hansel and Gretel

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December evenings (7pm)

Saturday 16th December matinee (3pm).

All performances will be in the Scout Hall in Old Kilpatrick (Erskine Ferry Road).

Last year was a sell out production so keep your eyes peeled on all social media for details regarding tickets (seating is limited!)

The group would like to thank the National Theatre of Scotland for all their support and for including them in their First Nights Programme which included attending Kidnapped at the

Theatre Royal, Dear Billy at the Kings Theatre and finally Moorcroft at the Beacon Theatre in Greenock.

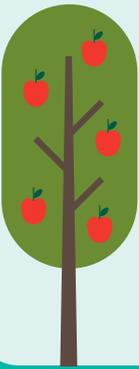




Thank you to Kilpatrick station adopters and volunteers who keep improving the areas around both platforms with the help of Scotrail's contributions to buy new plants and trees.

ANTONINE ARBORETUM

We had hoped to have a tree planting day at the Arboretum (the field behind Gavinburn School) at the end of October but this had to be postponed following an accident where a car came off the A82 into the edge of the field.



Forestry and Land are now in discussions with Transport Scotland to have a proper barrier put up before we can reschedule the event. We will keep you informed on our Facebook page.

AOK SOCIAL EVENING

Join AOK volunteers for a social evening full of music, dancing and entertainment on Friday 26 January 2024.

If you're interested in coming along,

please email info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk, or message us on Facebook.

More details will be posted on our social media in due course.



AOK SOCIAL
Save the Day
26 January 2024
Scout Hall
Old Kilpatrick

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Last year, Clydebank Community Councils in partnership with the Health Centre Management Team organised a Carol Concert for patients and staff in the new Clydebank Health Centre.

It is planned to hold another event this year on Thursday 7th December from 12pm. The Big Happy Choir from Firecloud will be the lead contributor.

All are welcome to come and join in the event which will be held in the labyrinth garden in the Centre.



Action Old Kilpatrick and Old Kilpatrick Community Council wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year 2024!

ACTION OLD KILPATRICK

Get in touch:
info@actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk

Visit our website:
actionoldkilpatrick.org.uk

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