

THE SPACE

(CELEBRATING CONNECTION: NEIGHBOURS, GROUPS, COMMUNITIES)

NEILSTON/UPLAWMOOR COMMUNITY LINK - IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!



Neilston and Uplawmoor are surrounded by wonderful landscape, but getting out there with kids on bikes (or wobbly adults on bikes!), buggies etc. can be difficult. How good would it be if people could safely walk or cycle off-road out into our lovely countryside, on paths designed to be suitable for all ages and abilities? A recent grant from

Sustrans, the national walking and cycling charity, is supporting concept design work, plus community, landowner, council and wider engagement, for a route from Neilston to Uplawmoor. The project is also the first major collaboration between NDT and Uplawmoor Development Trusts, and we're delighted to be working with our neighbouring community.

The route is part of ERC's Strategic Cycle Corridor no 1 and the nationwide effort to create great, safe routes and 'Places for Everyone'. The award comes at a good time, as it will help reinforce 'Active Travel' (that's walking and 'wheeling' to you and me) as a priority in discussions about Neilston village centre. And the link is not just between the two communities; if the proposal works out, there would be great new connections within the village itself.

Come along and hear more about the project; it's early days and there's lots to be sorted, but you'll see where we've got to and you can meet the consultants who have wide experience of all aspects of projects such as these.

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

UPLAWMOOR: Caldwell Church Hall, Neilston Rd 5 - 6.30pm

NEILSTON: Neilston Bowling Club, Kingston Rd 7 - 8.30pm

Both sessions are open to all Neilston and Uplawmoor residents - choose a time convenient to you!

Look out for updates on both projects on NDT and UDT Facebook and websites, or contact pauline.gallacher@neilstontrust.co.uk (NDT), [Martin Houston martinjhouston@aol.com](mailto:martinjhouston@aol.com) (UDT) Meantime don't forget the Bank Bike Hub and NDT Cycling: see back page and Facebook



BUSY MONTHS FOR NDT CYCLING

Lots of free events to get you back in the saddle!

- Indoor Winter Cycling Training sessions weekly at The Bank
- Bike repair skills with maintenance workshops at Bank and Rouken Glen.
- Beat the Street: a real-life walking, cycling and running game for the whole community. NDT Cycling is supporting! 19 Feb - 1 Apr.
- We'll be at Neilston and St Thomas Primaries with fun bike activities: from smoothie bikes, to basic maintenance and skills training.

Go to Facebook @NDTCycling for news and to register for our all our upcoming these free events.

**NEILSTON
BIKE HUB:**

Mon & Sat
10am - 12pm

**ROUKEN GLEN
BIKE HUB:**

Wed - Fri
10am - 4pm

INSIDE

- Connect Neilston - joining the dots
 - Growing collaborations
 - NWL : spreading the love
- Hello! linking with new residents

THIS ISSUE CELEBRATES THE WAYS IN WHICH LOCAL PEOPLE ARE WORKING TOGETHER IN NEW WAYS.

'Joined-up' is a well-worn phrase. There's never been more info out there, and Neilston is jumping with activity. But how to bring it all together? Difficult enough to connect in a big city, but surely not hard in a small place like ours? And forget digital for once; there's nothing to beat face to face contact, with people recognising the strengths and skills of each other. That's why **'CONNECT NEILSTON!'**, a recent meeting of local organisations led by NDT went like off like a fair.

Maybe after all these years, efforts to build strong networks are bearing fruit. **Locality Planning** is now embedded in council approaches, a new **Community Council** is in place, and at government level there's interest in strengthening local democracy, with the focus on getting decision-making nearer the grass roots. But no good if community organisations themselves aren't strong and connected. Looks like we're on the case in Neilston!



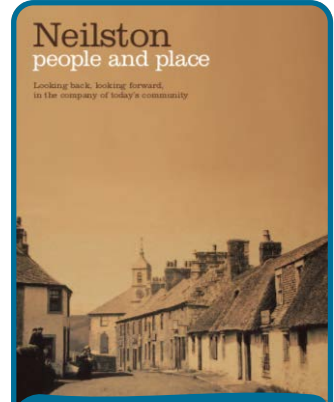
Rapt attention at Connect Neilston....



...but laughter makes the best connections!

WELCOMING OUR NEW NEILSTONIANS!

It's a lifetime since some of us came to live in the village, and one fond memory is of an old gentleman, Bob McCallum, popping in with a vintage copy of the Barrhead News to tell us a little of the history of the place. Fascinating stuff, of course, but more important was the gesture of welcome. Perhaps you're already well connected to village life, or just unpacking the boxes in your new home. Neilston is a great place to live, and NDT is part of the web of village organisations here to welcome you. We'd love to hear from you (once the boxes are unpacked, that is.)



Pick up a copy of our history map (or visit website)

WINDFARM LEGACY SPREADS THE LOVE



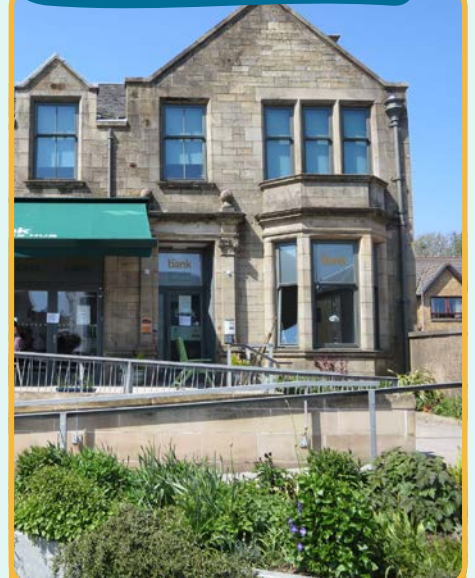
Last year NWL trustees and members of Neilston Bowling Club celebrated the renovation of the 1912 clubhouse, the first major grant (£5000) by the Windfarm Legacy. NBC also contributed £5,000, plus many hours of voluntary work. The result is a much-enhanced community space which is free to book for small events by village organisations and residents.

Other projects receiving NWL funding in 2019 include Glen Halls Indoor Bowling, 1st BB outdoor activity weekend, Joint Primaries PTA Colour Run Day, Include Me2 Neilston Hub Club and the Junior Brass Band intensive tutoring weekend. Neilston Community Sports Hub have been awarded funding in principle for the training pitch, subject to other funding to be confirmed; and the Scouts will see completion of their exciting Centenary Garden upgrade- if the rain ever stops!

New applications may be submitted at any time - the form can be found at www.neilstonlegacy.org. If any group needs assistance with the process, please contact NWL's Secretary at info@neilstonlegacy.org.



MEANWHILE SPACE



NDT is always looking at how to run our bank building and our wider operation in ways that serve the community best. Plans are well advanced to introduce changes to the building to make it more flexible and welcoming.

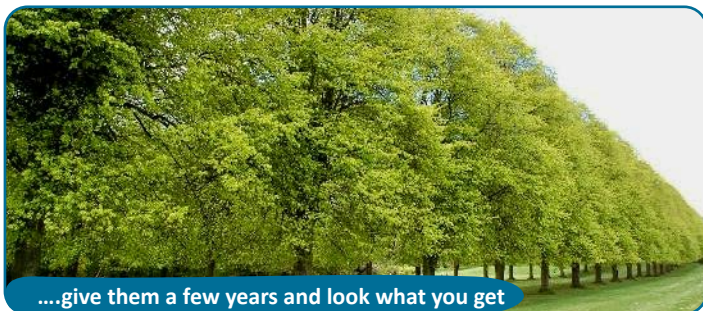
More next issue and on website soon; news, too of NDT's programme and priorities for the coming year.

'GROWING' COLLABORATIONS

KINGSTON PARK



Investing in future beauty at KP...



...give them a few years and look what you get

Kingston Park is a much improved place these days, and it's not just the trees that are growing. The Neilston Charter (2009) set out the community's ambitions for serious village improvement, and since then, the Charter Advisory Group (CAG) has been carrying the torch for that vision. Now Kingston Park is a much-enhanced facility for all to enjoy. It's a good example of collaboration between NDT, Neilston Community Council (NCC), JM Murdoch and East Renfrewshire Council, involving a lot of work on the part of volunteers in fundraising and delivery.

NCC played an important role in extensive public consultation and liaison with ERC during the project. NDT raised £25k for hedge and tree planting via JM Murdoch's contribution to ENTRUST (an environmental charity). ERC has repaired the hedge, damaged during the installation of the fence. Neilston Windfarm Legacy Fund (NWL) has granted funds to extend the hedge as part of Blooming Neilston. ERC provided new railings, new playground, furniture, zip wire, outdoor gym and Skate Park, with the Youth Shelter jointly funded by NDT and JM Murdoch. Work is now ongoing to widen the path and add lighting, which will enhance active travel options for everyone. It may have taken 10 years, but we're on our way. And more to come...

BLOOMING NEILSTON

**BLOOMING
NEILSTON**
Be part of it!

A great first meeting back in December brought together key village groups and interested individuals. Thanks to a small award from NWL, consultants had looked at a range of village spaces and made suggestions for temporary or long-term improvements for community consideration, pending moves by ERC regarding a village masterplan.

17 sites were identified, ranging from the Market Square (aka that bit in front of the shops) to small corners around the village. ERC has secured funding of £40,000 for quick spend on village centre work and the BN study has been the starting point. Key to success will be the community's buy-in to upkeep, and a small group was formed to take the project forward.

A 'tree' conversation at January's meeting produced a suggestion for joining forces with members of the War Memorial Association, (NWMA) to plant 28 trees in KP in memory of the 22 US servicemen who sacrificed their lives to save Norwegians refugees fleeing the Nazis at the end of WW2. What's the Neilston connection? It's an amazing story - see NWMA Facebook - to be commemorated in a ceremony at KP on 16 April. A worthy first outing for BN and a unique moment of connection with the past. Thanks to Matt Drennan for progressing.

More BN members welcome! Contact: pauline.gallacher@neilstontrust.co.uk



Kingston like you've never seen it! Full story NWMA facebook

WHAT'S ON AT THE BANK

MONDAYS

Strength, balance then health walk:

Weekly 10:30am.

Join in some gentle exercises & a short walk around Neilston (15+ mins) Cuppa too!



Cardmaking (Happy Crafters):

Fortnightly 7pm-9pm.

Contact Gail Cameron on 078 6750 7415.

Knitting Group:

Fortnightly 7pm-9pm.

Contact: pamfaulds@outlook.com or 0141 881 8436.

BANK BIKE HUB:

Mon and Sat 10am-12pm.

Drop by to book your bike in for repair, hire, or to buy a bike.

TUESDAYS

Gardening Club:

Weekly 10am-12pm.

Help grow food for community events and learn or share skills.

NEW Stitch and Stories Group:

Weekly 1.30-3.30pm at the Bank.

Be part of celebrating life in Neilston through stitching.

Contact Joyce Wallace c/o 0141 561 1201

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Walkers:

Weekly 10am.

Join us for a longer walk (60 mins+). Just turn up!

THURSDAYS

PC Club:

Weekly 10:15-11:45am.

Learn what you need to know in a relaxed environment.



Crochet Club:

Weekly 1-3pm.

Come and join our drop-in group to improve your crochet skills.

NEW Crochet class for beginners:

6 week block.

TBC March-April Booking essential. Call 0141 561 1201 or email Laura.carswell@neilstontrust.co.uk.



FRIDAYS

WW Weight Watchers:

Every Friday at 6pm.

Contact: Phyllis on 075 0070 7145.

SATURDAYS

WW Weight Watchers:

Every Saturday at 9:30am.

Contact: Phyllis on 075 0070 7145.

BANK BIKE HUB

Mon and Sat 10am-12pm.

Drop by to book your bike in for repair, hire, or to buy a bike.

SUNDAYS

NEW TRADITIONAL MUSIC Sessions at the Bank:

1st Sunday of the month 2-4pm (Next session 8 March) TRADITIONAL MUSIC Sessions at the Bank. Acoustic instrument players (all abilities) welcome. Non-players also welcome to listen to great sounds! Contact Allan Whiteford 07761211770 or @Neilston Traditional Music Session.



NEW SUNDAY SESSIONS POP-UP

LAST SUNDAY of the month (next sessions 23 Feb, 29 Mar)

- Delicious coffee, local produce in a relaxed atmosphere (with Sunday papers)
- Focus on planet-friendly menu, less plastic and waste.
- Wonderful BREAD & CAKE and selection of products on sale
- Looking for local creatives to bring your work to a new audience.

Contact: hellosundaysessions@outlook.com



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