



# Council scores with text messages



**As part of our ongoing commitment to deliver better customer service, the Council has made it even easier for local football teams and club officials to book a pitch. And the improvements mean that they can now get an earlier indication of when games have to be cancelled - typically due to bad weather - a big issue over the winter months.**

Until now, customers had to visit the Council office at Lime Tree House in person before 5pm on the Monday before the match to pay for and collect booking confirmation details. Customers can now book and pay for a pitch with a single phone call. They can simply use

their debit or credit card when they book and avoid the inconvenience of making the trip to our booking office at Lime Tree House, Alloa.

Customers booking by phone can also choose how they wish to receive their pitch confirmation details, either by email or directly to their mobile phone by SMS text. Customers still preferring to pay in cash will receive a paper receipt at the booking office, as at present.

The Council has also improved the way customers find out about whether pitches are playable or not. Following pitch inspections on a Friday morning, we will post information on our website [www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk) to advise which pitches are playable (or not),

and those that may need a referee's decision. We hope that both home and away teams will find this a practical improvement. And if the person who makes the booking provides a mobile phone contact number, we will send them an 'early alert' text to let them know if the pitch is not fit for play.

Brian Forbes, Customer Service Manager, said: "We're constantly looking at new ways of making it easier for people to contact and receive information from the Council. This small improvement came from consultation with the Football Forum and will make it easier to book a football pitch. The use of texting and web updates on pitch closures is a smart way of keeping everyone informed."

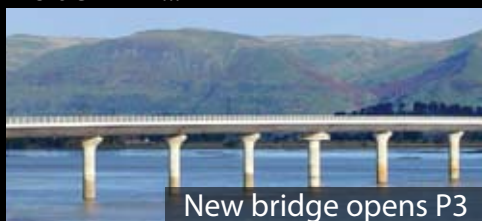
Tom Bell of Oakwood FC said: "Being able to pay at the time of booking is an excellent idea. It's far more convenient and saves me a lot of time."

Oakwood FC were one of the first beneficiaries of the early alert text system - Tom received a text to let him know that the pitch he had booked was unplayable and the Council was able to book an alternative pitch so the game could go ahead.

He added: "The early alert text system is a very effective service."

For more information about pitch bookings please contact the booking office on 01259 213131, or email us at [leisurebookings@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:leisurebookings@clacks.gov.uk).

## Inside VIEW...



New bridge opens P3



New sculpture planned P4



A picture of health P6



Meet Your Ancestors in Clackmannanshire

Free postcards



## Welcome to a new View

Welcome to the first edition of 'View' the Council's new newspaper and the latest addition to the range of ways the Council communicates with local residents.

We surveyed Clackmannanshire residents and you told us that you'd like more information about the Council in a newspaper format. This is the result.

View will be delivered to every single household in Clackmannanshire four times a year. It contains a wide range of information, covering all Council services from housing, social work, education, waste collection, roads, ongoing consultations and loads more.

We've also spoken to our partners at Forth Valley NHS, Central Scotland Police and the local business community and asked them to supply information that we hope you find interesting and informative.

We're paying for View by using it to distribute lots of information that would previously have been printed in separate leaflets or advertised in local press. We're also going to include all the news that used to be in Homing In - the newsletter we issued to Council tenants. We've calculated that each copy of View costs less than 11p to print and deliver.

We'll be asking what you think of View and looking for your ideas and contributions. So let us know what you think and what you'd like to see in the next edition by filling in the feedback form on page 7. You could win a pair of the 'hottest tickets in town'. See page 8 for more about this exclusive event.

## Contact Us

If you have any suggestions, questions or comments on View please contact us by writing to The Editor, View, Communications Unit, Clackmannanshire Council, Greenfield House, Alloa, FK10 2AD or email us at [press@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:press@clacks.gov.uk) and put the word 'View' in the subject box.

# It pays to be direct



**None of us like paying bills - it's just one of those things we've got to do. But did you know that you can pay your council tax by direct debit and make your life much easier?**

All you need is a bank or building society account. Call us now and we'll send you a direct debit application form for you to complete.

There are many reasons why it's better to pay by direct debit:

- you don't need to go into a Clackmannanshire Council office or write a cheque and post it to us every month to pay your bill
- you don't have to tell your bank or building society if your payment changes at any time - we'll do that for you
- remember, if you don't pay on time, you could lose the right to pay by instalments. With direct debit, you'll never forget to pay it - your bank will pay the correct amount automatically
- for council tax you can choose which one of three dates in the month you wish the payment to be taken from your bank or building society account. They are the 1st, 15th or 28th. You can also elect to pay over 10 or 12 months

- paying by direct debit is the least expensive collection method for the Council. The money we save can be spent on frontline services.
- the direct debit scheme offers a money back guarantee which means that your bank or building society must give an immediate refund in the unlikely event that either the wrong amount is collected or an amount is collected before the agreed date
- you will always be told in advance in writing of any changes to payment amounts or dates
- you can cancel a direct debit instruction at any time.

Collecting council tax is a major priority for Clackmannanshire Council and paying by direct debit is the only method which offers flexibility. Unless you pay by direct debit, council tax is normally paid in 10 monthly instalments from April to January inclusive which have to be made on or before the 15th of each month.

To start paying by direct debit simply call 01259 450000 to get the necessary forms or visit your local Council office.

Remember you can also pay your council tax online at [www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk) and a new 'shopping basket' system means you can group purchases together.

## Brass Rolls in for Band

**A cheque for £4500 has been presented to Clackmannan District Brass Band by Provost Derek Stewart.**

The cheque comes from the Clackmannan District Brass Band Trust which is administered by the Council and is to be used to promote the provision of band music for the county's residents.

The money will be used to buy new uniforms, a new pedal timpani and cover expenses incurred by band members attending various competitions such as transport and accommodation.

Provost Stewart presented the cheque to band representatives Graham Caldwell and Jim Currie and said: "I'm delighted to make this major cheque presentation to the Clackmannan District Brass Band.

Band members give up their time and talent to make many local events go with a swing, so we're pleased to be able to help this continue."

This year the band came 2nd at the Scottish Championships in Glenrothes which meant they qualified for the National Finals in Harrogate in September.

As a result of this success the band has been invited to take part in the Scottish Open competition in Perth at the end of the month.

Band Secretary Anne McInnes said: "The run up to Christmas is a busy time of year for the band with various concerts and fundraising events. We've had a great year as we were



Provost Derek Stewart with Graham Caldwell and Jim Currie of Clackmannan District Brass Band

one of only two bands from Scotland represented at the National Finals."

The band rehearse every Tuesday and Friday evening in the band hall on Clackmannan Road, Alloa, and always welcome new members. See [www.clackmannanbrass.co.uk](http://www.clackmannanbrass.co.uk) for details.



## Listening to Community Concerns

**Community spirit is alive and well in Clackmannanshire and can help us reduce crime – that's the message from Central Scotland Police's Superintendent Andrew Price.**

Whether it's tackling anti-social behaviour – be it youths drinking, vandalism or petty crime – to addressing domestic violence or drug dealing, Superintendent Price and his officers are determined that community concerns are listened to and acted upon.

But the Clackmannanshire Area Commander believes the public have an active and vital role to play.

He said: "Many of the problems which we deal with have a wider social impact and the public are central to helping us address many of them.

"Simply by being our eyes and ears and reporting incidents of concern to officers, and allowing the appropriate form of action to be taken, can have a significant positive impact on a street, a village or a wider community.

"Every member of the community has a positive role to play. Young people in Clackmannanshire, in particular, can often be tagged with a negative image but have so much to offer and can contribute a great deal to making this a good place to live, work or visit.

Community officers are dedicated to every community throughout Clackmannanshire – and each have their own web pages which contain the latest appeals, information bulletins and contact details ([www.centuralscotland.police.uk/myarea](http://www.centuralscotland.police.uk/myarea))

Superintendent Price said: "These officers are responsible for covering particular communities and are a vital part of our frontline policing services. I would ask that people make themselves aware of who their local officer is by accessing their details online. They will be out and about in communities and the web provides another way of contacting them."

The Area Commander said the community officers work with Community Wardens on tackling jointly issues of concern.

Superintendent Price added: "Central Scotland Police is committed to working with the Clackmannanshire Alliance and Community Safety Partnership to ensure the communities in the area have the best access to services possible. That includes a responsive and effective policing service.

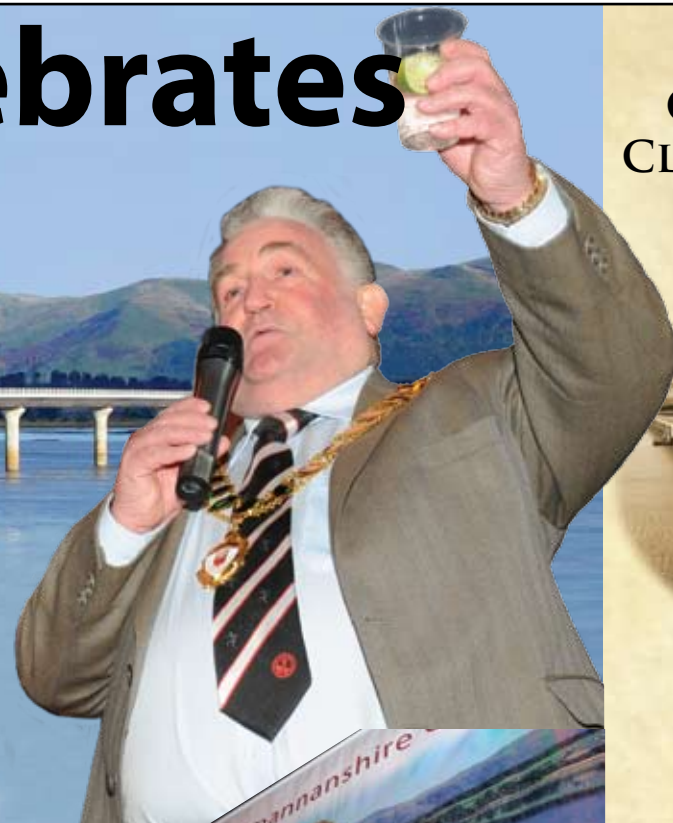
"Our performance information for the year so far shows good results in a number of key areas under the banner of Public Reassurance and Community Safety."

More information about Central Scotland Police can be accessed at [www.centuralscotland.police.uk](http://www.centuralscotland.police.uk)

# Community Celebrates Bridge Opening

## ON THE OPENING OF THE CLACKMANNANSHIRE BRIDGE

The Clackmannanshire Bridge opened on 19th November 2008 and to celebrate this historic day over 300 members of the community enjoyed a party in Alloa Town Hall. The event coincided with the official ceremony, which was performed by First Minister Alex Salmond. The bridge gives the county its first direct link to the motorway and its name was chosen after thousands of local people backed the Council's Clackmannanshire Bridge campaign.



*Like a child stretching to maturity  
Before our eyes  
It now stands strong and proud  
As if it has always been.*

*The current of change wraps itself around its  
limbs.  
A fresh wind brushes against its concrete skin.  
Soon it will sing the song of others  
Dance to the rhythm of journeys unfolding.*

*In the distance the Ochils nod their ancient  
Heads in approval of the newcomer.*

*People power named this bridge  
Gave direction to their hopes and dreams  
Gave notice for the maps to be re-written.  
Signed the welcome book for visitors.*

*People power named this bridge.  
Created their future in the present.*

*Tom Murray, Writer in Residence,  
Clackmannanshire Council*



# Finishing touches to new schools

The finishing touches are being made to Clackmannanshire's three new secondary schools which open to pupils, staff and the community in 2009.

The opening of Alloa Academy will also see the integration of secondary pupils with additional support needs, who previously attended Fairfield, into the mainstream.

The new school forms a community campus with Park Primary, Tower Nursery and Alloa Family Centre and is a major part of the Council's plans to regenerate the harbour area of Alloa and links to the recent enhancement of the existing conservation area in Lime Tree Walk.

Each school features state-of-the-art teaching facilities as well as modern

meeting, performance and sport facilities which will be available for community use outside of school hours.

The new Alva Academy is sited at Greenhead, next to the school's existing playing fields. Its design reflects its setting at the foot of the Ochils with a library housed within curved walls and three teaching wings coming off a central hub like fingers. A new access road 'Academy Avenue' has been built to the school.

The new Lornshill Academy is being built behind the existing building and its elevated position will afford staff, pupils and visitors fantastic views across the Forth Valley.

Lornshill will boast spectacular sporting facilities and will be able to host county-wide sports events. It will also contain drama and performance areas for teaching and rehearsing.

An amphitheatre at the front of the building forms a natural spectator area for both sporting events and outside performances.

Keep up to date on the schools progress online at [www.clacksweb.org.uk](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk) and look out for the Spring edition of View for more news about the new secondary schools.



Alloa Academy forms a campus with Park Primary, Tower Nursery and Alloa Family Centre

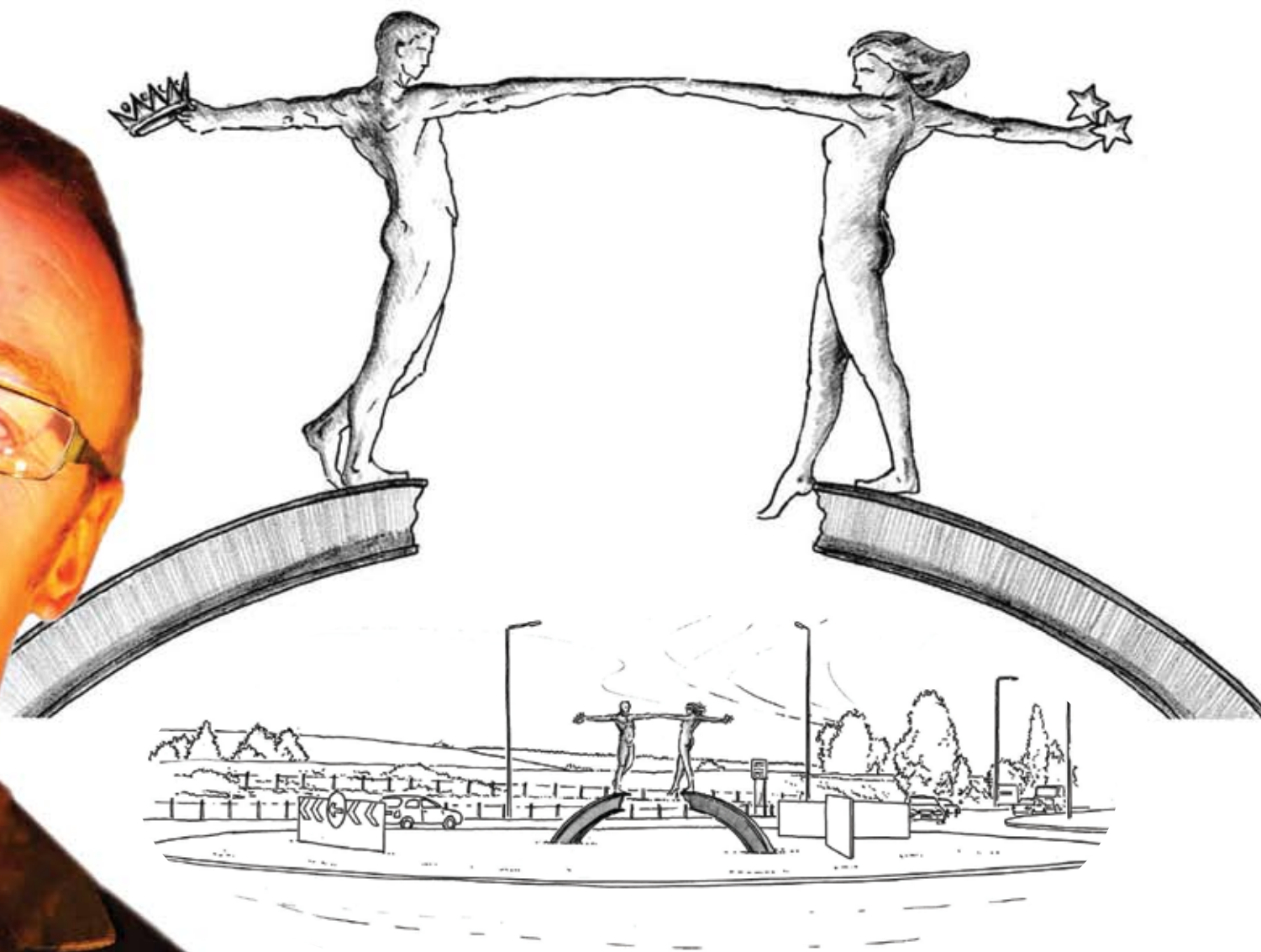


Lornshill Academy with its new amphitheatre



Alva Academy at the foot of the Ochils

# Striking new sculpture to celebrate bridge



**C**lackmannanshire's fruitful association with internationally-renowned sculptor Andy Scott is about to yield another local landmark.

The Glasgow-based artist has been commissioned to create a fifth work for the county which will stand on Mary Wood Roundabout on the edge of Clackmannan.

As you can see from these drawings (above), the proposed work will be of two figures, male and female, linking hands. The work celebrates the construction of the Clackmannanshire Bridge and will be the largest of Andy Scott's artworks in the county.

On a much smaller scale, Menstrie is about to become the home of an Andy Scott sculpture which will be located in the Midtown gardens which depicts a boy with a fox's head and tail, on a water wheel.

Cultural Planner Kathleen O'Neill said: "Andy has work around the globe, yet Clackmannanshire can boast the highest concentration of his work in such a small area."



Images clockwise from main: new work planned for Mary Wood roundabout; I Can See For Miles, Alloa Railway Station; Air Spirit, Muirside roundabout, Tullibody; new work for Menstrie still under construction in the workshop; River Spirit, Collylands roundabout.

# New Fund Tackles Tough Issues

The Clackmannanshire Alliance has decided how to distribute the first year of Fairer Scotland funding, which addresses poverty and deprivation. A quarter of the fund has been allocated to voluntary sector projects which are working to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities. As well as employability initiatives, Fairer Scotland also supports health improvement and positive image projects. In this edition of View, we focus on the projects which are helping more people access employment.

Some of the voluntary sector and other projects which have received funding are featured on this page.

## C-MEE £42,340

C-MEE (Community Maintenance and Environmental Enterprise) is based at Kilncraigs in Alloa. It provides gardening, decorating, small repairs, uplifts and estate maintenance services to individuals, housing associations and community groups who are disadvantaged by physical, financial and/or social constraints. As part of the service delivery it also offers training, work experience and volunteering opportunities.

Contact - 01259 727441



## Reachout with Arts in Mind

£22,740

An Alloa-based project which uses the arts as a means of improving confidence, self-esteem, motivation and aspiration. Many of its members are experiencing mental ill health and are unemployed, socially isolated and/or on a low income. Reachout works within an identified and recognised gap within provision and is unique in Forth Valley.



The project will increase opportunities for people experiencing mental ill health to improve social and practical skills, increase confidence and self-esteem to take control of their lives and make positive life choices. The project will develop creative education, training and information sharing skills through 'peer tutor' member-led workshops, and through working with a range of creative professional arts and crafts workers to increase skills and employability.

Contact - 01259 723666

## Clackmannanshire Works £400,000

Works with Clackmannanshire residents including:

- 16 – 19 year olds not in education, employment or training
- Individuals in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance or Income Support
- Individuals in receipt of health-related benefits who are not currently on Pathways to Work
- Individuals not in receipt of any benefits
- Lone parents
- Individuals who are at risk of redundancy



It provides individual assessment and case management to identify and register eligible clients, provide individual assessment of their needs and compilation of individual action plans, and link them into appropriate education, training, volunteering or employment opportunities.

Once a client has been assessed, staff can also help them access services such as money advice with intensive support in dealing with debt management, benefit checks, tax credit calculations and budgeting.

Clackmannanshire Works also has access to discretionary funds including the Barrier Free Fund which helps to remove barriers blocking clients' progression towards employment and the Child/Dependent Care Fund which offers funding for a limited period in response to clients' needs.

Clackmannanshire Works also provides a single point of contact with employers to identify local recruitment needs and screening and matching suitable clients to vacancies and placements.

Clackmannanshire Works also supports and assists self employed individuals and emerging social enterprises within the county.

Contact - 01259 226699

The Fairer Scotland Fund is a new ring-fenced fund from the Scottish Government, distributed through Community Planning Partnerships. It runs until March 2011. Clackmannanshire Council and our partners receive funding of:

- £1.823 million 2008/09
- £2.043 million 2009/10
- £2.263 million 2010/11

The money will be distributed by the Clackmannanshire Alliance with the aim of tackling area-based and individual poverty and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities. All funded projects have targets to meet and are monitored regularly to ensure that they are delivering.



## Candies Cuisine

£31,000

Candies, which was formed in 2003 with six volunteers, now provides 11 paid jobs, three volunteering opportunities and six trainee placements. It provides a base for people to develop and use their catering and customer care skills in a real working environment. This is a stepping stone to employment, giving people the opportunity to build on existing skills, learn new skills and help decide on future career options. Candies has contracts which involve workers providing breakfast and lunch for hundreds of people every day, as well as corporate buffets for a number of local companies and Council functions. Candies training section continues to provide quality catering for staff at Kilncraigs.

Contact - 01259 218625

## Homestart £40,000

Homestart Clackmannanshire is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year - two decades of supporting local, young families. Through a network of trained parent volunteers the charity has supported 500 parents who are struggling to cope. Families need support for many reasons including post-natal illness, disability, bereavement, the illness of a parent or child, or social isolation. Homestart involves parents supporting other parents, to help build a family's confidence and ability to cope. Based at Alloa Town Hall Lodge, Homestart has four part-time members of staff and 40 home visiting volunteers.

Contact - 01259 213453

## Recyke a Bike £21,500

Recyke-a-bike was established in 2006 by Fallin Community Enterprises and takes bikes from across Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling for servicing and repairs. It has just opened a new workshop in Alloa which offers training courses to adults who wished to learn about repairing their own bikes, training for school children on bicycle skills and facilities for reconditioning discarded bicycles for sale to the public. Six local young people have started a six month training programme at the workshop. The teenagers are all school leavers who are not in education, employment or training and are now gaining new skills including bicycle maintenance which will help them to compete in the job market.

Recyke-a-bike's Project Manager Alasdair Tollemache said: "We would like to thank both Clackmannanshire Alliance and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for supporting the setting up of this workshop. I am particularly pleased to be able to combine training for young people with our desire to protect the environment. We are pleased to be able to offer first-class training through our workshop."

Contact - 01786 818059

# Bumper Recycling Year for County

Clackmannanshire has recorded a bumper year for recycling with more than 42% of waste being recycled. The county success has seen over 15,000 tonnes of municipal waste recycled or reused. Recycling waste is a major part of the Council's sustainability plans that contribute towards Scotland's climate change challenge and vision for a Zero Waste society.

The Council stayed below its mandatory landfill allowance, but it is not resting on its laurels as tougher European recycling targets are set to demand more recycling in the years ahead.

Councillor Eddie Carrick, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, said: "Collecting and recycling waste is a non-stop business. The Council and our recycling partners carried out over 2 million waste collections last year. But we must press ahead to meet new our targets."

Topping the list of recycled materials were garden waste at 5,126 tonnes, and blue box collections at 3,856 tonnes. Under a new scheme, 302 tonnes of discarded electrical appliances were also recycled.

A recent poll of the Council's citizens' panel showed that householders wanted a greater range of household waste to be recycled and to have more secure storage space for their waste.

91% of respondents stated that they took part in the Council's recycling scheme because it allows them to recycle at home and 90% said

that the system is easy to use. But 73% asked us to start collecting a wider range of materials, while 72% wanted more secure containers.

In response to your feedback, the Council is planning a better recycling service for next year. From early in 2009 a new blue bin collection service will be introduced. The change will increase the range of household waste that can be recycled and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, as well as storing waste more securely.

The Council's Integrated Waste Manager Graeme Cunningham said, "Blue bins have been introduced successfully already in many parts of Scotland and, listening to our customers' comments, we think that they're the best solution for Clackmannanshire. We'll be giving out a lot of information in the run up to the change, explaining how the new service will work and the greater range of materials householders will be able to recycle."

Blue bins will accept a wider range of material including all coloured plastic bottles. Cardboard collection will move out of the brown bin and into the new blue bins.



## Waste Collection Over the Festive Period

Over the festive period there will be some changes to the collection days for the blue box and your bin. These will only affect Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and 2nd January.

Thursday 25th December 08 will change to Saturday 27th Dec 08

Friday 26th December 08 will change to Sunday 28th Dec 08

Thursday 1st January 09 will change to Saturday 3rd January 09

Friday 2nd January 09 will change to Sunday 4th January 09

All other days will be unaffected.

Normal bin collection and blue box kerbside recycling arrangements will resume on Monday 5th January.

## Alloa BID is Scotland's Most Wanted



Alloa's business community has voted for a Business Improvement District, with 93% of the voters voting 'yes' for this town centre BID with a record turnout of 53%, making this Scotland's 'Most Wanted' Business Improvement District.

A BID is a group of businesses which agree to invest collectively in extra improvements.

The Alloa Business Improvement District involves businesses and organisations from a wide range of sectors including independent and multiple retailers, dentists, lawyers, pubs and restaurants and representation from the third sector with Clackmannanshire Voluntary Services and Alloa's five Churches.

Initial projects that will be delivered through the Alloa Town Centre BID will address anti-social behaviour, plus a shop front improvement scheme and the management and delivery of innovative and regular events. All projects will be delivered with the assistance of all relevant stakeholders including Central Scotland Police and Clackmannanshire Council.

Contact Andrew Mitchell, BID Project Leader, on 01259 727 313, or email amitchell@clacks.gov.uk for more information.

## Money Advice Service

The credit crunch can affect your job security, your home, your lifestyle, even your relationships. If you are experiencing difficulties because of the credit crunch, free and confidential support and advice is available from the Council's Money Advice Service.

Based at Lime Tree House, the Service offers confidential and impartial advice to anyone who lives in the Clackmannanshire area.

We can help by:

- checking your benefit and tax credit entitlements,

- suggesting ways to reduce unnecessary expenditure,
- contacting creditors on your behalf,
- giving advice on all forms of debt recovery, including court action,
- and providing information on possible solutions such as rescheduling, trust deeds, bankruptcy and the Scottish Government's Debt Arrangement Scheme.

Contact the Money Advice team by calling 01259 450000 or email moneyadvice@clacks.gov.uk. Home visits can also be arranged.

## New Health Centre Takes Shape

The new Clackmannanshire Community Healthcare Centre is taking shape, with work nearing completion. The new Centre will contain a replacement for the current Alloa Health Centre, new premises for mental health and inpatient services, some Council social work services and a new day therapy unit for older people.

Once complete, it will become the cornerstone of healthcare and social care provision in the area for a population of more than 49,000.

The centre, off Hallpark Road in Sauchie, is the first of its type to be established in Forth Valley. It is part of an integrated healthcare strategy which will see community facilities like this being established to bring care closer to people's homes and acute services brought together at a major new hospital in Larbert.

External work is almost complete, with good progress also being made on the interior of the buildings. Landscaping has begun in the courtyard area. At the same time, teams from NHS Forth Valley and Clackmannanshire Council are working hard to finalise the details of the move to the new facility, early next year.

Clackmannanshire Community Health Partnership General Manager Kathy O'Neill said: "It's good to see the project progressing. Our plan has always been to have patients moving in gradually over the first few months of 2009, following the completion of the project at the end of this year. The latest information from our contractors is that due to the effects of sustained bad weather this summer, we can now expect the handover to be early next year. Nevertheless, we will be working closely with them to ensure that our patients will still benefit from this new facility as early as possible."



# Lottery Boost for Ochils



**The Ochil Landscape Partnerships Scheme has moved a step closer towards a £650,800 Heritage Lottery Fund windfall.**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has confirmed that the Ochil Landscape Partnership is one of three Scottish schemes to have been earmarked an award.

The announcement means that money has been earmarked by the HLF for the project and is an indication of positive support. Ochil

Landscape Partnership can now progress to Stage Two and submit a further fully developed application to secure the full award.

Ochil Landscape Partnership aims to increase access to the hills and wooded glens of the Ochils, improve the quality of its rivers, restore significant buildings as well as providing opportunities for the community to tell the story of the area's cultural, social and industrial heritage.

Priorities for the scheme include conservation or restoration of built and natural features such as the silver mines and the remains of Alva's Ice House. The scheme also aims to conserve and celebrate local cultural associations such as weaving and printing.

If the Stage 2 application is successful, it is hoped that the HLF will release the fund to implement the Ochil Landscape Partnership Scheme in April 2010. The Council has committed £155,000 from its capital programme for 2009/10 for the project.

## Flood prevention work underway

**W**ork to raise the mixed leisure route in Tillicoultry is underway to help protect homes from future flooding.

A 200m section of the route is being raised by one metre near to Elistoun Drive, which was affected by flooding in January 2008.

The Council commissioned tests and a survey of the area after the flood to see whether raising the mixed leisure route could protect homes without causing flooding elsewhere.

The work will help protect the area from the impact of a predicted one in 200-year flood event, plus a 20% allowance for climate change.

To ensure the future effectiveness and stability of the new embankment a significant amount of vegetation, including some trees, have been removed.

It has been necessary to close the mixed leisure route in Tillicoultry while the work, which is due to be completed by Christmas, is carried out. Further minor works including landscaping and fencing will follow in the new year.

# Lime Tree Walk Restored to its Former Glory

**The redevelopment of Alloa's historic Lime Tree Walk is complete. For the past six months, workmen have been carrying out a full range of improvements including replacing the 80-year old trees, which were suffering the effects of pollution and poor soil, with young, more resilient trees.**

These 122 new, 'heavy standard' lime trees have been planted in two rows along the length of the central reservation and will ensure that the Walk looks its best for many years to come.

Other improvements that have been carried out include:

- upgrading the carriageways and footpaths

- adding cycleways
- adding car parking
- putting in railings, gates and street furniture
- soft landscaping
- setting up streetlighting for the "safe routes to school" programme

These improvements mean that the distinctive wide avenue has been retained as a dual carriageway with space for the passage of vehicles and convenient lay-bys so that cars can pull in. A wide footway and cycle path will encourage people to walk or bike.

Lime Tree Walk was created by the 6th Earl of Mar as route from Alloa town centre to the harbour in the 17th century. It is part of Alloa's



The 122 new trees on Lime Tree Walk are more resilient.

Conservation Area and the regeneration is part of the wider improvement to the harbour area of Alloa and the construction of the new Alloa Academy nearby.

## Anthology of New Writing Published

**C**lackmannanshire's Writers in Residence, Tom Murray and Stuart Hepburn, have published a collection of new poetry and prose by local writers called 'Unheard Voices'.

Tom said: "The publication of 'Unheard Voices' is the culmination of two years of workshops and development, nurturing local writing talent. The 23 featured writers come from all walks of life, and a wide age range. The one thing which unites them is the talent to express themselves in print. We are proud to showcase their work in our first ever publication."

The book is available to buy, priced £4.99, from Alloa Library, The Vessel, Aberdona Gallery and the Artshop.

## Clackmannanshire Consults on Community Service

**F**ife & Forth Valley Community Justice Authority would like to know what you think about the Community Service by Offenders Scheme which operates in your area.

The CJA covers four Council area - Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife and Stirling - and a survey has been issued to 3500 residents in these areas. In order to gather more views, the survey is also available online via each of the Council's websites.

The survey aims to establish the level of awareness and understanding people have of Community Service and will help Criminal Justice to shape future public information about the scheme.

The survey closes on 20th December 2008.

You can access the survey at [www.clacksweb.org.uk/council/clackmannanshireconsults/](http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/council/clackmannanshireconsults/)

## Let us have your thoughts

This is the first edition of View, the Council's new newspaper for residents, and we'd like to know what you think. Send us your thoughts on its contents and your ideas on what you'd like to see in the next issue, which will be published in the spring. Fill in this feedback form or send us an email and you could be in with a chance of winning a pair of the 'hottest tickets in town'. See page 8 for more details.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Editor, View, Communications unit, Clackmannanshire Council, Greenfield, Alloa FK10 2AD or email us at [press@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:press@clacks.gov.uk) and put the word 'View' in the subject box

## Events and What's On

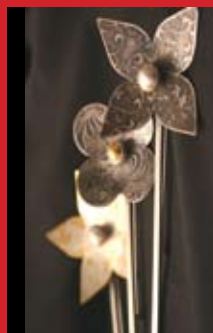
### Winter Works Exhibition

An exhibition of art and crafts from across Central Scotland runs at Aberdona Gallery for Artisans until 16th January.

Entitled 'Winter Works' the mixed exhibition includes submissions from professional and amateur artists of oils, watercolours, drawings, prints, sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and glass.



Around 30 artists have submitted work, which is available for sale. Prices range from £10 upwards and 30% of sales will be reinvested by the Council in cultural services in the county.



The youngest artist on display is 14-year-old Georgia Collins, a pupil at Alva Academy, who is displaying glass.

The Council's resident digital media artist Kenny Bean has had some of his photography submissions accepted for the exhibition, while Alva painter Donna McGee will also have her paintings displayed.

A range of new blank greetings cards produced by the Council showing some of cultural services' work in the area are also be available to buy at Aberdona. The cards show some of the county's most stunning and popular public art including Andy Scott's sculptures and Michael Vissochi's 'Pontils'.

Winter Works is open daily from 10am to 5pm and is free of charge. Aberdona Gallery for Artisans at Aberdona Farm is three miles from Alloa. It can be reached from the A977 Forestmill road or from the B9140 Coalsnaughton to Dollar road - it is signposted from the road and the gallery's postcode is FK10 3QP.

### Abbmania

An ABBA tribute night at Alloa Town Hall on Sunday 15th February 2009. Doors open 7pm. Tickets, £15 each, from the Leisure Line, call 01259 213131.



### Sleeping Beauty by Forefront Stage School

Fun for all the family with Forefront's traditional panto at Alloa Town Hall from Friday 9th January to Saturday 17th January 2009. Contact Forefront for more details and tickets on 01259 750394.

### Along the Miners' Rows by Alman Theatre

Alman Theatre present an evening of story and song celebrating the perilous life of the coal miner called 'Along the Miners' Rows' on Friday 20th February and Saturday 21st February 2009 at 8pm. The songs and music will be performed by Bill Adair and the Bridgend Session Band at the Coach House, Tullibody Road, Alloa. Tickets cost £8 and are available by calling 07801 700296

### The Visitors by Dollar Drama Club

'The Visitors' by Alistair Faulkner is being performed by Dollar Drama Club from Sunday 22nd February to Tuesday 24th February 2009 in Dollar Academy Studio Theatre. The play is directed by Elizabeth Gemmell. For more information see the club's website [www.dollardrama.org.uk](http://www.dollardrama.org.uk)

### Hottest ticket in town

Plans are being made to celebrate the opening of the county's three new secondary schools next year. While formal opening ceremonies are likely to take place towards the end of the summer term, community celebrations are being planned for the spring term. These celebrations will take the form of a civic week at each Academy and will be an opportunity to showcase the new buildings and their facilities to the whole community. These civic weeks will each open with an exclusive, 'red carpet' event. Tickets for these Sunday evening events will be limited and are bound to be sought after. See ClacksWeb for more information in the New Year.

## Vessel's First Christmas

The Vessel has increased its stock in the run-up to Christmas and is a perfect place to find that unique gift.

Hand crafted items with prices ranging from £5 to £100 are available to buy including:

- Handmade silver jewellery
- Glass jewellery
- Beads
- Purses
- Cushions
- Pottery
- Buttons
- Bags
- Cards
- Prints
- Paintings



The Vessel, which is located at 9 Delph Road, Tullibody, opened in July 2008 and features a range of art for sale.

Claire Maxtone, the Council's Jeweller in Residence, is the gallery's curator. Claire graduated from the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design and is a qualified jewellery designer. Her work is based on the shape and movement of windmills.

Claire also accepts commissions for special occasions and runs jewellery workshops. Gift vouchers for the workshops are also available to buy. And for those trying to source a specific type of art, Claire will make every effort to access the right artist for you using the many artists that have links with the Council's Cultural and Community Services.

A percentage of profits from The Vessel are reinvested into the Council's cultural work in the community.

**The Vessel is open every day except Wednesdays and Sundays from 10am to 5pm.**

## Meet Your Ancestors in Clackmannanshire

The Council has been successful in being awarded a grant from EventScotland to take part in Homecoming Scotland 2009. This national celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns also includes the themes of ancestry, whisky, golf and Great Scottish Minds and Innovation.

Meet Your Ancestors in Clackmannanshire aims to encourage people to return to Clackmannanshire to trace their ancestors and visit relatives and friends. We will celebrate the rich history and heritage of the county through historic kirkyard trails and tours, an ancestral tourism resource to help people at home and abroad research their family history and an art installation in Alloa Old Kirkyard and Greenside Cemetery. To showcase the outstanding contributions of Clackmannanshire-born people to the world and promote the link with Robert Burns, who visited the county on several occasions, promenade performances in several kirkyards will tell the stories of some of the people who are buried there.



Our main programme of events will happen between June and November. Tickets for events will be available soon - watch the local press and ClacksWeb for further details. Meanwhile, we hope you like the set of postcards enclosed with the edition of View and ask you to send them to your friends and family to encourage them to come home to Clackmannanshire in 2009!

**For further information please contact 01259 216913.**

Homecoming Scotland is a Scottish Government initiative managed by EventScotland in partnership with VisitScotland.