

Uphall Village News

The Community Newsletter of Uphall Community Council



www.ucc.org.uk

Issue 6 2015

Welcome to the sixth issue of Uphall Village News brought to you by Uphall Community Council. We hope that you will find this an informative and interesting issue. We would welcome any feedback.

We would like to remind you that all Community Council meetings are open to the public and all residents are welcome to attend as observers.

Irene Bishop

Chairperson

Uphall Community Council

Community Councils are statutory bodies and are comprised of elected members of the public with an interest in their local community and they aim to protect the interests of local residents and promote sustainable development.

Uphall Community Council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Coffee Lounge of Uphall Community Centre. Meetings are scheduled to start at p.m. and a warm welcome is extended to any resident who wishes to attend.

Since our last issue we have had various representations. Stewart Adams, a planning consultant from NHS informed us of the future plans for Bangour Village Hospital. A representative from Victim Support explained the free services they have to offer. Jocelyn O'Connor, Community Police Inspector, gave us an update on the proposed increase in staff at the Broxburn station. Scott Ferguson from First Bus spoke to us about the new buses, changes in timetables and routes as well as proposed fare changes. Gary Laing from the Fire Service spoke on the affects of the Local Plan on West Lothian.

Local planning applications are discussed to protect the interests of our residents. Any issues brought to our attention are discussed and are followed up by contacting the relevant authorities and reporting concerns. Our local councillors also attend Community Council meetings and take up concerns or complaints on our behalf and feed back to us.

We have taken part in various on-line, and written consultations as well as attending public consultations which affect our area.

Unfortunately we lost Meg, one of our two young co-opted members last summer, and we are losing Tatsuya this summer. an active role in Community Council meetings and gave the Community Council an insight on issues relevant to the youth in our community. We wish them well in the future as they take the next step in their further education.

Due to a breakdown in communication the work in the Friendship Garden which was due to take place last year has not yet started but hopefully will be completed soon.

There has been a delay in setting up the Facebook page but hopefully this will be rectified soon.

Information will be fed out through both Facebook and Streetlife as well as the community notice boards.

Christmas Switch On

Once again The Christmas Light Switch On was held before the Torchlight Parade and after several Christmas events in both Uphall and Broxburn including Breakfast with Paddington.

There was a good turn out of both adults and children for the event. The switch on was performed by John Richardson. John is a former Chairperson of Uphall Community Council and a former longstanding member of the Community Centre Management Committee. Over the years John has also been a willing helper in setting up the park etc. prior to the Gala Day At present he is working hard for forces veterans in Scotland.

Those who attended were entertained by members of Livingston and Broxburn brass band, Radio Grapevine and pupils from Uphall primary school and joined in the carol singing. Mulled wine and mince pies were then served.

Do you know who owns Ross's Walk?

The answer to this question has eluded the Community Council for a long number of years despite making numerous enquiries. We have received many complaints over the years but the situation regarding the state of disrepair of this well used thoroughfare is now becoming very dangerous.

This is the shortest route to the Main Street for the elderly residents in St Andrew's Court but the potholes are getting deeper and increasing in number making it very difficult to walk over. If we add the use of walking sticks or wheeled walkers the difficulty increases. There have already been reports of falls and trips, so far these have not been serious but if repairs are not carried out soon then it could be a different story.

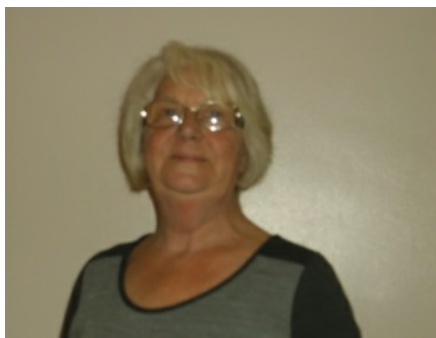
It appears that the bottom part is privately owned but who owns it?

If you have any information regarding ownership then please contact a member of the Council.

We need to ensure that the elderly are able to reach the Main Street safely to maintain their independence for as long as possible.



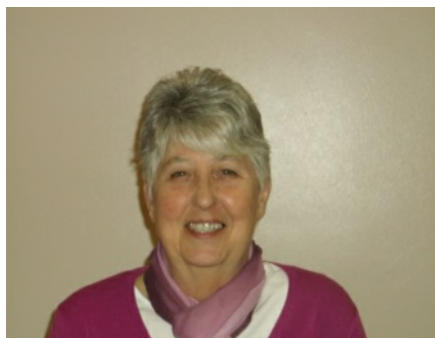
Your Community Councillors



Irene Bishop

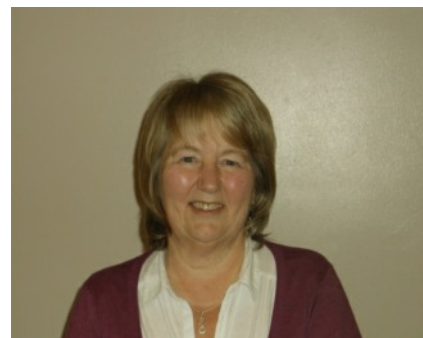
Chairperson

catherinebishop@btinternet.com



Jeanette Cumberford

Vice Chair



Lynne McEwen

Secretary

lynnemcewen@hotmail.co.uk



Fraser Graham

Treasurer

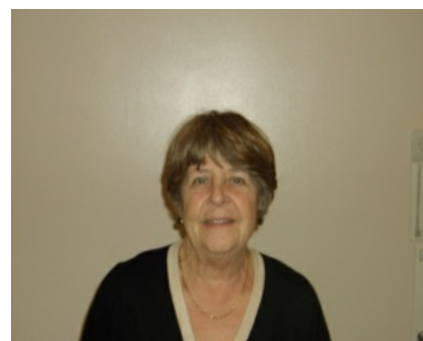
fraserevelyn@aol.co.uk



Gerald Paisey

Planning Secretary

ghjpaisey@tiscali.co.uk

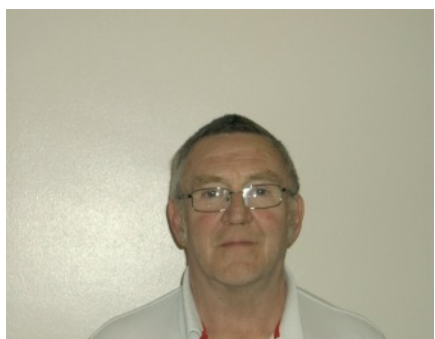


Irene Jones

irene1jones@btinternet.com



David Flight



John Campbell

veraandian@talktalk.net

You can contact any of your Community Councillors if you have any issues relating to our area.

We will bring these issues to the table and try to get them resolved.

You are welcome to attend any Community Council meeting.

Fire Safety Advice



- Every hour of every day there's a house fire in Scotland.
- Everybody's home is at risk of fire. It's important to know how to reduce the chances of fire happening in your home and, if it does, how to protect yourself.
- Cooking incidents, overloaded sockets, faulty appliances, smoking and drinking are just some of the reasons why there are so many house fires in Scotland.
- One lapse, such as leaving a pan unattended or failing to put out a cigarette properly, could change your life forever.
- The majority of fire deaths occur where there was either no smoke alarm or an alarm that didn't work.
- Our job is to help make sure your home is as safe from fire as it can be. This is why we provide free Home Fire Safety Visits. Our staff can help you spot a possible fire hazard, offer advice and guidance and fit smoke alarms free of charge if your home requires them.
- A Home Fire Safety Visit only takes around 20 minutes - that 20 minutes might just save your life and it's organised at a time that suits you.
- If a fire does start then having working smoke alarms will buy vital time for everyone to get to safety and call 999.
- As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We can also fit smoke alarms free of charge if your home requires them.
- It's so easy to arrange! To join Scotland's fight against fire and register for a free home fire safety visit call 0800 0731 999, text 'FIRE' from your mobile phone to 80800, fill out a form at www.firescotland.gov.uk or contact your local fire station.



Strathbrock Church hall in Thomson Court opened in 1903 as a Model Lodging House for vagrants, tramps and temporary workers.

Dog Fouling



This is a topic which continues to crop up at Community Council meetings. People are disgusted by dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs, especially responsible owners who do clean up after their dogs.

As well as being a nuisance it is also a potential health hazard. In line with the 2003 Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act West Lothian Council states that it is an offence for any person who is in

charge of a dog not to immediately remove, and dispose of appropriately any excrement, if the animal defecates in any public place without reasonable excuse or the consent of the landowner.

Public places includes pavements, footpaths, roads, parks, recreational pitches. Excrement should be picked up and disposed of in a responsible manner by either depositing it in the nearest dog waste bin, litter bin or in your domestic waste at home.

Offenders may receive a Fixed Penalty of £40, rising to £60 if not paid within 28 days. Authorised Officers of West Lothian Council and Police Officers can issue these Penalties. Offenders can also be reported to the Procurator Fiscal and may be fined up to £500 if convicted.

Repeat offenders can be reported to Environmental Enforcement Wardens.



The Oatridge Hotel (formerly the Uphall Inn) burned down in a disastrous fire in 1805.



Tea for Two
at No 52

AFTERNOON TEA

LATTE ESPRESSO BAGUETTES

SANDWICHES CAPPUCCINO

HOMEMADE SOUP PANNINIS

HOT ROLLS SALADS

HOMEMADE CAKES BAKED POTATOES

LIGHT SNACKS

GLUTEN FREE/DIETRY SPECIALS RANGE

52 West Main Street ■ Uphall ■ EH52 5DW
m: 07508526656 ■ e: T42atNo52@hotmail.co.uk

Business Gateway

The Business Gateway in Greendykes Road opened its doors over a year ago following the closure of VION. The staff work closely with partner organisations, community groups and businesses and this has proved to be a recipe for success.

A list of services which are available at the Business Gateway is shown in the next column.

West Lothian Council Advice Shop

West Lothian Council Advice Shop has an advisor based in Broxburn Business Gateway on Greendykes Road every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. until 5pm and Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until 1pm. The advisor can assist local residents with benefit issues, money or debt problems, housing issues as well as Energy advice. Meetings with the advisor are by appointment only and can be booked by either contacting Business Gateway directly on 01506 283400 or the Advice Shop on 01506 283000.

Credit Union



A not for profit voluntary run organisation offering financial services here in your community to help you! We are also in many schools.

Main Office in Livingston – The Centre
The Strathbrock Centre, Broxburn every Thurs (11-12)
The Business Gateway, Greendykes Road, every Mon (09.30-11.30)
Bridgend Adults now able to save in school.
Linlithgow promotions every Wed, various locations.

You too can become a member, with access to:

- Regular Savings Accounts
- Save for Christmas - Santa Savers Account
- Junior Accounts – Children can save too!
- Low Cost Loans – rates from 3% APR
- Free savings and loans insurance
- Prepaid Visa card
- Jam Jar Account
- Funeral Plans & Free WILL service

We are looking for more Volunteers – give us a call!

Tel: 01506 436666
Email: info@westlothiancreditunion.co.uk
Web: www.westlothiancreditunion.co.uk
Like us on Facebook!



The Arnold Clark car showroom was the site of Uphall's cinema



Business Gateway Start Up Service

Free one-to-one business advice on all aspects of starting a business including analysing business idea potential, help to prioritise actions to start your business, explore funding and creating a business plan.

Business Gateway Growth Service

Free business advice on growing a business including business planning and strategy, finance and cash flow, exploring sources of finance/funding at local and national level, free unbiased signposting services

Business Gateway Information Service

Business information aims to provide a wide variety of information support including property searches, business fact sheets, social economic data and market research assistance for businesses.

Prince's Trust Youth Business Scotland

Youth Business Scotland can help you make your business idea a reality by offering advice, mentoring support and funding. Supporting young people aged 18 to 30 years old to start-up and grow in business. They are a vital support to young people interested in entrepreneurship.

West Lothian College

Looking to develop your career or gain employment? The College offers a wide range of courses to support you. From modern apprenticeships to pre-employment training, college staff can provide expert advice on course choice and funding opportunities.

Access2employment

Access2employment is an employability service to help local residents into employment, training or education. Experienced Employment Advisors can assist you with CV preparation, cover letters, interview techniques and job applications.

The Advice Shop

The Advice Shop is a free, confidential service open to anyone who lives in West Lothian. They provide advice and assistance on benefit entitlement, appeals, managing debt, energy advice, rent arrears and landlord disputes.

West Lothian Credit Union

Credit Union is a not for profit voluntary organisation offering affordable financial services in the form of savings accounts, low cost loans, prepaid debit cards etc. Anyone living or working in West Lothian can join.

Free Internet Access

We have 6 public access computers with free internet access. They are available for business and job search use with no time restrictions (subject to availability).

IT Buddies

IT Buddies are available twice a week to help with Universal Job Match, job search websites, preparing documents, online safety, email accounts and much more.

Our opening hours are:

Mon: 9.30 am - 12 noon
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 2 - 4.30 p.m.
Fri: 9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 2 - 3.30 p.m.

Late night appointments available on request

01506 283400

Bizwestlothian@Bizwestlothianbgateway@westlothian.gov.uk

Trading Standards

The telephone can be a lifeline for the elderly, and those with physical or mental health problems, but it also brings unwelcome calls into the home that cause confusion and distress, and which are sometimes a danger. This section of our society tend to spend more time at home and can be vulnerable to high pressure sales tactics or be targeted by scammers. Some are lonely and enjoy chatting on the phone, others may have mobility issues and many may not be aware of the risks of identity theft.

West Lothian Council Trading Standards are currently participating in a national project involving the supply of ten telephone call-blocking units to local vulnerable adults. Potential recipients and/or carers were identified by Trading Standards in conjunction with various partner agencies and offered a call-blocking unit, along with ongoing support. The ten units were installed between August 2014 and January 2015.

The call-blocking units are linked to a secure website, accessible to Trading Standards staff, allowing call activity to be monitored, including details of all rejected calls and those successfully connected. In addition, the website can be used to manage the 'trusted numbers' for each unit and also offers reporting facilities. After installation the units remain the property of West Lothian Council and can be removed and re-allocated to another user as needs are reviewed.

Evidence to date would suggest the units to be a great success, with almost 2100 nuisance calls blocked, representing 99.7% of all the nuisance calls made to the ten units. Feedback from users would suggest they are very satisfied with the effectiveness of the units. Some of the comments received are:

"I've noticed a big difference in the number of calls I'm getting"

"It's stopped all the hassle of unwanted calls and we don't have to run to answer the phone"

"I don't need to worry about Ann getting stressed and calling me at work after every phone call she received and did not understand what the caller was wanting."

Following these positive outcomes, funding has been granted for the purchase of additional units and work is currently underway to identify vulnerable adults who would benefit from their use.

If you want advice about nuisance calls or want to report scams please ring the national Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 040506.

West Lothian Far from Ypres

Mary Boylan and Liz Reid organised this concert initially to coincide with the World War 1 Exhibition at Strathbrock Partnership Centre. A lot of research must have been done in preparation to putting on this concert because it was a tribute in song and story to West Lothian's people in WW 1 and Bangour War Hospital.

The performers varied in age from young teenage pupils from both Broxburn Academy and St Margarets to an eighty year old man. Ken Boal, depute head at Broxburn Academy, did the oration and Jonathan Moore provided the visual presentation of slides.

It was a first class performance which was full of respect for those who gave up so much. There was not a dry eye in the hall by the end of the evening.

It has since been performed at Broxburn Academy and at The Regal Theatre.

Oatridge Hotel & Grill Restaurant

The MacGregor family run

The Oatridge Hotel

and invite everyone into the bar and restaurant

where a warm welcome awaits.

- All food is supplied by local butcher J. Lawson •

A La Carte

Mon-Fri 12 p.m.-2 p.m., 5.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Sat 12 p.m. -9 p.m. **Sun** 12.30-7.45 p.m.

Early Bird menu

Two courses £10. Three courses £12.50

10% discount OAP (only on Early Bird menu)

Mon -Fri 5.30 p.m.-6.30 p.m.

Sat 12 p.m.- 4 p.m. **Sun** 12.30- 4 p.m.

Beer Garden open all year round

BOOK NOW 01506 856465

Betty takes to the sky

Betty Lyons, a resident of St Andrews Court, took to the sky in a glider last year. Quite a daring feat for someone in their 90th year.



Betty attends a weekly group at The Linburn Centre which caters for veterans and offers a range of activities, vision rehabilitation, independent living skills training and the groups frequently go on adventurous outings.

While there she saw pictures of gliders and decided it was something she wanted to try. She travelled to Perth for her

flight. She thought it was a brilliant experience and thoroughly enjoyed it. Betty even took the controls during the flight, but admitted to handing the controls back for the landing. This year Betty is heading to Belgium to visit war graves, with a group from The Linburn Centre.

Did you know?

Dargai Place is named after a military incident in what is now Pakistan. The storming of the Dargai Heights in 1897 led to the awarding of four Victoria Crosses. The Dargai Heights rock formation on the North Road near Wyndford Farm was thought to resemble the real Dargai Heights.

**MIDDLETON HALL
BOWLING CLUB**

**GO LAWN
BOWL!**

**BOWLING
GAMES ROOM
QUIET LOUNGE
FUNCTION HALL FOR HIRE
BEST VALUE FOR MONEY DRINKS IN TOWN**

Full and Social memberships are available now.

facebook  

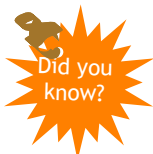
**STANKARDS ROAD, UPHALL
PHONE 01506 856346**

Middleton Hall Bowling Club are delighted to announce that they now have a Bradshaw Buggy which will open the sport up for people with disabilities as well as those who have difficulties walking or bending. The buggy is free for all to use and was part funded by a Big Lottery grant of almost £10,000, which was awarded in 2015. The Bradshaw Bows Buggy is not just a wheelchair with wide wheels. It is a purpose-designed machine for playing bowls with maximum efficiency. This means that those with disabilities have full access to the green and no longer need to miss out on playing lawn bowls.

The award has also allowed the club to modernise the multi-purpose function room with air conditioning and to improve the buildings' security with a CCTV system. The multi-purpose function room has also been re-carpeted and the ladies toilets have been remodelled and modernised. Portable staging has allowed the opportunity for carpet bowls to be brought back to the club, an asset that has been greatly welcomed by all.

Training sessions are carried out 3 times per week with fully qualified and vetted coaches. Newcomers to the sport as well as junior members are welcome to join the sessions to learn about bowling technique as well as bowls etiquette. Training sessions are free of charge to all.

If you, or you have friends or family who could make use of the Bradshaw Buggy get in touch with the club to find out more about how you could be spending long summer days out in the fresh air enjoying an enjoyable and very social pastime.



Forrest Walk was named after Rev. Alan Forrest, a former minister of Uphall South Church.

What is that wee office behind the bus stop ?



Have you seen the wee office in Uphall called THE SCOTTISH AUTOCYCLE UNION and wondered what they do in there?

We are not a cycle repair shop and we do not sell motorcycles. Although two cyclists from Israel came in looking for directions to Glasgow - so we printed off some maps and gave them some stickers before sending them on their way.

The SACU - Motorcycle Sport Scotland is the governing body for the sport in Scotland. We issue permits and licence officials and competitors to compete in events across Scotland and the World. And we provide insurance for events to cover riders, officials and landowners. We look after Road Race, Motocross, Quads, Enduro and Trials riders. Our sport is based on clubs and we have over 40 across Scotland putting on events each weekend.




Our website www.sacu.co.uk has details of events each week and lists all our clubs. Want to compete on a motorcycle - join a club and get a licence.

Fish & Chips • Pizzeria

Aldo's

8 East Main Street, Uphall EH52 5DA



OPENING TIMES
Lunch: **Thursday-Friday:** 11.30am-1.30pm
Evening: **7 Days:** 4.00pm-Midnight

Telephone:
**01506 855574
or 856707**

www.aldosuphall.co.uk
ORDER ONLINE
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



Edinburgh Airport

We have recently been informed of a trial of a new departure route from Edinburgh Airport.

Edinburgh, Glasgow and Prestwick airports have formed the Scottish Airspace Development and Design group. Their aim is to ensure airspace capacity for the future growth of aviation in Scotland and to implement this in a safe and sustainable way.

Due to increased passenger numbers the need for increased airspace capacity above Central Scotland is required to cater for the continual growth.

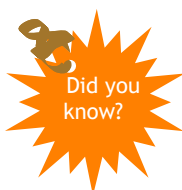
They intend to introduce a new Standard Instrument Departure route for certain aircraft taking off from Edinburgh. This will allow aircraft to depart at one minute intervals. This would allow them to encourage and maintain sustainable growth and ensure punctuality will be unaffected. It will allow increased capacity without having to expand the current runway or build another.

The aircraft will take off on a new south westerly departure route and turn right towards the River Forth, climbing above the water before flying back over land at approximately 13,000 feet.

There will be engagement with those who will be affected by the trial and noise monitors will be placed along the flight path to collect data and analyse noise levels.

This is a six month trial which will begin operation in June. However they will officially launch the trial at the end of April to gain feedback and engage with the public. More information can be found on the website- sid.edinburghairport.com

They want to stress that this is only a trial as any permanent change would require a statutory change process and involve further public engagement and stakeholder consultation.



The Glebe housing is built on land which once belonged to St. Nicholas Church.

Autism Family Support



A fairly new group to Uphall Community Centre is Autism Family Support. This is a West Lothian based charity.

Their main aim is to support families living with Autism, including Asperger's, before, during and after diagnosis. Recognising that everyone in the family needs support in different ways and wanting to encourage inclusion in an accepting environment they

aim to offer a variety of options.

They have several strands of support. A free membership is offered to all parents/carers and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders before, during and after diagnosis including Asperger's. Membership gives access to their confidential Facebook forum where peer to peer support is freely given and received. They have launched a Membership sign up page on their website (www.autismfamilysupport.org.uk) so please visit the page to get a membership card.

They run an expressive movement and dance class on a Saturday morning in Livingston and a Sports running club in Bathgate on a Thursday evening, both for 5-11 year olds with a diagnosis on the Autistic Spectrum.

A major part of their work is the Fusion Youth Club. The club meets on two nights, Monday in Armadale and Wednesday in Uphall Community Centre. The clubs are for young people with Autism/Asperger's between the ages of 12 and 18. They look to provide a safe, positive, accepting environment for the young people while improving their opportunities to learn and practice social skills. Two excellent Youth Workers, in conjunction with the committee, put in place a varied programme of events including arts & crafts, film nights, life skills and a whole lot of fun aiming to build up the young people's social skills and confidence. They have enjoyed using the facilities in the hall at the Community Centre to play games and generally blow off a bit of steam. The Youth Club is a huge part of their work and they look forward to it growing over the next few years.

The Autism Family support committee would like to thank the local communities, both in Uphall and throughout West Lothian, for their support and are looking forward to growing in those communities and providing support for all families living with Autism.

Uphall Children's Gala Day

This year's Gala Day will be held on Saturday 13 th June. The parade will leave Uphall Primary at 12 noon and make it's way to King George V park for the crowning, presentations and races.

This year the main characters are
 Queen - Elizabeth Steven
 Ladies in waiting are - Rebecca Lumsden and Jennifer Frater
 Queen of Fairies - Sophie Rose Turnbull
 Crown Bearer - Cameron Stavert
 Sceptre Bearer - Finlay Sayers
 Page Boys - Logan Stavert, Aiden Miller
 Herald - Michael MacDonald
 Queen's Escort - Owen Nichols

The Gala committee would appreciate all offers of help. If you are able to help please contact Carol Waugh preferably before the gala day.



The Wee Barber Shop

[1.com](http://www.theweebarbershop.com)

Classic

HAIRCUTS & TRIMS

Traditional

HOT SHAVES

Refined

MALE GROOMING

PRODUCTS

Our Prices

Adults £8

Kids (under 12) £6

OAP's £5

Traditional Hot Shave £10

Opening Times

Tue 10am - 6pm

Wed 10am - 2pm

Thu 10am - 7pm

Fri 10am - 5pm

Sat 9 am - 2pm

The Wee Barber Shop

East Main Street

Uphall

No appointment necessary

MacKenzie's

mackenzieshoerepair.co.uk

01506 852912

9 West main Street, Uphall

07941 483283



Shoe Repairs

Quality shoe repairs at competitive prices



Key Cutting

We can duplicate most types of keys (Household mortice, cylinders, multilock, car & motorbike)



Watch Repairs

Straps, batteries, movements, stems, glass, spring bars etc.



T-shirt Printing

Work wear. Polo shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies

Mobile Key Cutting Service

Available from 5pm -9pm

Local Churches

Strathbrock

Strathbrock Church has 2 church buildings, St Machan, Ecclesmachan and St Nicholas in Uphall. There is also a church hall in Thomson Court.

Services are held in St Nicholas Church at 11.00am. On the 4th Sunday of the month café style worship is held in the church hall at 9.30 am. From July of this year services will alternate monthly between St Machan and St Nicholas, starting at 10.30 am.

This year an extension was added to St Nicholas church to house a toilet and washing facilities.

There are many activities held in the church hall. The Girls Brigade meet in the church hall on Monday nights and the Boys Brigade meet on Thursday nights. Both companies are very active and popular with young people.

Along with Uphall South Church a holiday club is organised in the summer holidays.

Other activities include Facegroup (men's group), the Guild and flower arranging; all these are held on Tuesday evenings. There are also prayer groups and house groups.

The popular Thrift Shop is held on the first Friday of the month in the church hall and will be on during the first week of July.

A craft fair will be held in the church hall at the beginning of October and an Easter craft fair in the spring. The Christmas Fair will be held at the end of November in the Church Hall.

For all information please see the church website www.strathbrockparish.net and the Strathbrock Church Facebook page.

Uphall South Church

Church Services every Sunday at 11 am. Minister Rev. Doctor Ian Maxwell.

Sunday Stars for children age 3- P5. Meet in the hall during the church service.

Sunday Club for children P6 to S6. Meet in the Open Door during the church service..

On the second Sunday of each month from September to June there is an evening service in Dechmont Memorial Hall at 7pm.

On the second Sunday of each month from September to June refreshments are served in the church from 10.30 am - 10.55 am.

Messy Church on the fourth Sunday of September, November, January, March and May. After the service refreshments are served in the hall from 10.20 -10-55 am.

On the fourth Sunday of each month refreshments are served in the hall directly after the service.

Activities

Prayer Group meet in the church hall every Wednesday morning to pray for local and world issues.

Bible Study Groups:

Monday in the small meeting room 2.00 -3.30 pm. and Open Door 7.30 - 9.00 pm.

Tuesday in the small meeting room 7.30 -9.00 pm. and Open Door 7.30 - 9.00 pm (Run September -May)

Coffee Mornings run from September to May each Saturday. 10.30 - 12 noon

Open Church on the first Saturday of each month. Open from 10.30 am -12 noon for anyone who wishes a time of quiet meditation or prayer.

Holiday Club - Uphall South church work with Strathbrock Church to run a weeklong event for children going into P1 up to P7. Five mornings from 10 - noon.

US Men -meet monthly in the church hall

Craft and Ladies Group - meet monthly in the church hall September to June and weekly July and August.

Care and Friendship Group - Cuppa and Chat -3rd Wednesday of the month 2 pm- 3 pm August to May.

Foodbank

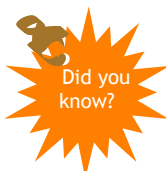
The Foodbank distribution point for the Uphall/Broxburn area is now located in Broxburn Parish Church hall, Church Street, Broxburn and is open every Tuesday and Thursday between 12.30 and 2.30 p.m.

The Foodbank is operated by the Trussell Trust and the main distribution point for West Lothian is based in Whitburn. There are 8 distribution points throughout West Lothian: Whitburn, 2 in Bathgate, Blackburn, 2 in Livingston, Linlithgow and Broxburn.

The food comes from donations from schools, churches, supermarkets and can be handed in to Broxburn Parish Church hall any Tuesday or Thursday between 12.30 and 2.30 p.m. All food donated goes to Whitburn where it is made up into boxes for single people, couples, small families, large families etc.. The boxes are then delivered to the various distribution points throughout West Lothian where volunteers help to distribute them.

If you are facing difficulties you can contact one of the following agencies in Broxburn to discuss your situation : Job Centre, Sure Start, Adult Social Work, Homestart, Broxburn CIS, Open Door Accommodation Project, West Lothian Council Homeless Service, Strathbrock Family Unit.

On receipt of a voucher you will receive a 3 day emergency supply of food.



The Old Manse was built at the end of the 17th century as a dower house for the Cardross family. It was known as Uphall House. Now there is a modern manse built in what was the garden. The old manse was converted into several flats.

Uphall Primary School

Mrs MacPhail, head teacher, has left Uphall primary School after 4 years to take up a new post as head teacher of Riverside Primary in Livingston. Miss Baxter will be acting head teacher until a new head is appointed.

This is the school's 50th anniversary year and a concert is planned for June to celebrate this event. The school would also like to mount a display and would welcome any photos and relevant mementos.

After receiving funding last year the grounds for learning work is almost complete. The pupils are developing a playground charter to support playground behaviour.

The gardening club has had a donation of trees and have planted a small orchard in the school grounds.

There are still issues with parking outside the school. Parents, guardians and carers are continuing to park on the zigzag lines. Please support the school by leaving these areas clear so that children have a safe, unobstructed place to cross the road. Children's safety should always be a priority.

Broxburn Academy

Congratulations to former Broxburn Academy pupils Samantha Millar and Hannah Rarity. Samantha graduated from Edinburgh University with a Law Degree and Hannah, who studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, sang on the BBC's Hogmanay programme.

Thirty S4 modern studies pupils paid a visit to the Scottish Parliament. They watched General Questions in the Debating Chamber and then had a meeting with two MSPs. Senior staff and young people from all years, including school captains, house captains and prefects took part in the annual Broxburn and Uphall remembrance parade.

Broxburn Academy staff and pupils supported the Christmas Fair organised by the Broxburn and Uphall Town Centre Management Group in Uphall Community Centre. This year stalls were provided by the Junior and Senior Nurture Groups, the Amnesty International Group, and the Project Romania Group.

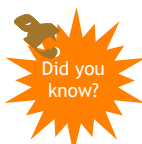
The School Wind Band won a well deserved, Silver Plus at the Scottish Wind Band Competition!

Caitlyn and Connor Stewart were selected for, and participated in the 2014 Jungle Adventure Project, a voluntary 3 week expedition, which took part at the end of June in Brunei and Sarawak. The aim was to encourage self-reliance, while fitting into a good working team of nine participants and following lessons including: Jungle Kit Prep; Organising a jungle base camp; Jungle survival techniques; and Hostage rescue and Jungle Trekking.

So far this session pupils have raised £3800.00 for Teenage Cancer Trust, £426.62 for Cancer Research and £423.62 for Help The Heroes.

Ruairidh Little & Marcus Millar have received a Saltire Award having completed 200 hours voluntary service with Broxburn United Sports Club. There are several other pupils working towards Saltire Awards with the Club.

This is a snapshot of some of the activities the pupils are involved in and it is refreshing to see so much of it involves helping others.



MacFarlane Place was named after Maisie MacFarlane, the proprietor of the local newsagent's shop. The family still operates MacFarlane's newsagents on West Main Street.

Uphall Community Centre

The Management Committee of the Centre meet monthly to discuss Centre business and agree lets, policies, maintenance issues etc. The centre was opened in 1999 and since then the Management Committee have worked hard to ensure that the fabric of the building is well maintained and they try to provide a service which meets the needs of the community.

Funding was secured from the Challenge fund to purchase Indoor Curling equipment. As well as replacing the equipment which was previously borrowed from Excite for the existing group, the aim was also to provide an opportunity for people with carers to become more involved in a sport and a chance to socialise and to encourage men to take up the sport.

Although there is a varied programme, the Management Committee are always open to suggestions for new courses or activities. If you have any suggestions then please contact the centre.

The public access computers are used on a regular basis and have been proving helpful to those looking for employment.

There has been an increase in the number of private functions held in the Centre. If you are looking for a venue for a function then contact the centre for further details.

Work is expected to start in July on the new football changing rooms. These will be built onto the back of the main hall which means that some of the play equipment will be re-sited.

Please check the website for more details.

John Lawson Butchers & Delicatessen

Scottish Family Butcher Since 1979

**WINNER of Scottish Butchers Shop of the Year
2014 - 2015**

Award Winning Grass-Fed Beef From Our Own Family Farm



Q Guild BBQ Awards 2015

- Best Steak - GOLD AWARD (Sirloin Steak - 28 day dry aged)
- Best Beef Burger - GOLD AWARD
- Best Pork Sausage - GOLD AWARD
- Best BBQ Product - GOLD AWARD (BBQ Butterfly Chicken)
- Best Speciality Sausage - GOLD AWARD (Pork & Chive Sausages)
- Best Speciality Burger - GOLD AWARD (Pepper Pork Burger)

Everything You Need For The Perfect

Summer BBQ

Shops In Uphall, Broxburn & Winchburgh

www.johnlawsonbutchers.co.uk

Memories of Uphall in the 1920's and 1930's

There was a very good article in a recent Uphall Village newsletter about Uphall by Dr Gerald Paisey. I thought that I would write about Uphall in the 1920's and 30's, as I was born in 1921 and have lived here all my life, except for War Service in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF).

Uphall was a much smaller village in the 1920's. There were no houses in the Glebe or Loaninghill. From the kitchen window of our house in Ecclesmachan Road we could see over the fields to the huge red bings at the east end of Broxburn. There was nothing in between except Potter's field and allotments. There were very few houses beyond the cemetery on the east side. Behind the three storey building at Goschen were fields belonging to the farms of Fivestanks where the Stewart family had lived and farmed for generations. There was also a shooting range where the Territorial Army practised their skills. Almost opposite, but further east, stood the saugh tree (willow tree) which marked the boundary between Uphall and Broxburn. Sadly the saugh tree is no more.

The houses at the Middleton Estate were built in the 1920s and the people who were employed by the Scottish Oil Company came from all over to live in them. Tradesmen, chemists, draughtsmen and office workers were the first to come. Scottish Oils also built two tennis courts and a bowling green in the grounds of Middleton Hall. There was a watchman called Paddy Went, who blew a whistle to tell children to get home in time for tea after playing in the swing park which was near the Brox Burn. I believe at one time he was supposed to keep the children who didn't live in Middleton out of the estate. The Scottish Oils employed many gardeners who kept the estate in good order.

The Company also allocated houses to the District Nurse and to the headmaster of Uphall Public School. Nurse Scott was the district nurse when I was small. She was a war widow (from WW 1) with two children, Patrick and Sheila. Next door was Mr 'Paddy' Irvine, the headmaster of Uphall School. He too had a son and daughter.

Uphall was then a mixture of better-off and poorer people. It was the era of the Depression and there were many unemployed people. It was hard on a mother if her husband were to die early or die in an accident at the shale mines, as the Widow's Pension was just 10/- (50p) per week, not a great deal of money even then.

There were no pensioners' houses in East Main Street, only one or two privately owned houses, then Alan Steele's lemonade factory. Further down there was a row of cottages with a drinking well outside on the pavement. These houses demolished to make way for pensioners' houses. A Mrs Maywood lived there - she turned one of her rooms into a shop, which was popular with children because it was mainly a sweet shop. She also made chips - I don't remember fish being fried, but perhaps she also sold that. Mrs Maywood was the sister of Maisie McFarlane. Their mother had opened a newsagent shop in 1914 in Uphall Main Street. Maisie presided over the shop and had a friendly word for everyone. The shop was originally on the other side of the Main Street, where Facelook is now. It also contained a small library, charging a small amount for borrowing books. The McFarlanes were an enterprising family!

The present site of McFarlane's was then an Italian ice cream and chip shop run very ably by the Benassi and Ugolini families, who had come from Barga in northern Italy to start a business here. Customers would take a jug to be filled with ice cream to the shop - it was the best ever! Other shops in the Main Street were Tammy Johnston's hardware shop, selling 'everything from a needle to an anchor'. He also charged batteries for people in the early days of crystal set wirelesses. The name 'wireless' died out and was replaced by 'radio'!

Next to Johnston's was Graham the bakers, presided over by Nettie Elliot. A lovely smell of baking emanated from the bakery behind the shop. This is now Chenzo's. Next door to that was a grocer's shop owned by Alexander Ross, always a good shop, selling the best boiled ham anywhere.

Further along from where McFarlane's now is was a ladies' shop run by Mrs Smillie and further down another baker's shop run by Nellie Russell, who was another local character. These shops in Uphall were there for many years and were institutions.

On the other, south, side of the street were Cunningham the butchers, with sawdust on the floor and carcasses hanging up on wire hooks from the ceiling. Miss Aggie Reid was behind the counter. Behind the shop stood the sheds where the animals were slaughtered, after spending some time in the field across the burn.

Kate Rennie had a sweet shop, Mr Muir a cobbler's. Jimmy Dickson was the chemist who was a great favourite. He was a fine golfer too. He made an emulsion from cod liver oil and also sold Chemical Food which had to be drunk through a straw as it turned teeth black! These two products were bought by parents as a tonic for children. It was a sad day for Uphall when Jimmy Dickson died quite suddenly in 1936. Managers ran the shop after that.

The original bridge which led to the bowling green was much wider and was used by cars and lorries. It carried a notice saying that lorries over a certain weight weren't allowed to cross it. Another grocer's shop was Hastie's, where the betting shop is now. This was another good grocer who sold excellent quality goods. Butter sold in grocers' shops came in great slabs and it had to be cut and weighed before being sold.

Beyond the Oatridge Hotel was Walker's store - another grocer's shop - and Mr Jeromson's dairy, now Lawson the butcher. The Co-operative shop was on this side of the street in the 1920s and '30s, and always had a lovely Christmas display for children. East of that stood the Post Office, run by Mr James Brown. As well as the Post Office counter, there was a draper's shop where parents bought their children's clothes. It was later run by Mr and Mrs Douglas.

At the other end of the village, in West Main Street, stood the 'picture house' (cinema). It was very popular and very friendly inside as everyone knew each other. Mr Willie Bryce was the proprietor and was responsible for capturing gala days on film with his cine camera. Some of these films still survive. The picture house was situated where Arnold Clark's garage is now. There was a lesser hall behind the picture house which was used by a Friendly Society. A savings bank was used by many people when wages were so low.

Other social life in Uphall revolved round the South Church and the North Church (Strathbrock St Nicholas). Mr Chalmers was the minister of the South Church and was very popular. He ran an excellent Youth Fellowship and a dramatic club which presented plays from time to time. The Brownies and Guides met in the South Church and were well run by Miss Polly Petrie and Miss Constable. The Scouts were run by Andrew Chapman and John and Bill Denholm. A Scout hut was built later at the side of the Oatridge Hotel.

Mr Dunn was the minister of the North Church and was also very well liked. He sat on the Education Committee of the Council and I believe he helped local teachers to find jobs at a time when jobs were hard to come by. It was a sad day when he died suddenly while cutting his lawn. On the day of his funeral, schoolchildren lined Ecclesmachan Road to pay tribute to him.

Mr Crawford succeeded him and was a fine preacher. He instigated the restoration of the North Church to its original form. The balconies were removed and also plaster, so that the old stone work was revealed. A lot of the restoration work was carried out by volunteers. Services were held in the Church Hall which was lower down East Main Street on the south side.

The Sunday School picnic of the North Church was always held on the third Wednesday of June. Mothers, fathers and children gathered at Uphall Station to board a train over the Forth Bridge to Kinghorn. Children threw their pennies out of the carriage windows into the Forth while crossing the Bridge, for luck. The train was shunted at Newbridge on to the Fife line - not a usual

route for normal trains. The weather always seemed to be glorious and everyone came back home with sunburn!

In Ecclesmachan Road there was a Police Station. The building is still there and is now two houses. Sergeant Tully and Constable Peter Stark were in charge and often directed the traffic at the foot of the road on Oatridge Races day in April. The Races were run by the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt. They also directed traffic on Remembrance Sunday for World War 1. On this day Captain Shairp of Houstoun led the Church Parade on horseback, followed by the cavalry of the Scots Greys and members of the British Legion, many of whom had survived the Great War.

There was very little road traffic, but bus services were frequent to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The return fare to Edinburgh was 1/6 (7½d). After Sunday Service in the North Church, people would walk back down in the middle of Ecclesmachan Road to the village.

My friend Jean Stenhouse and I played 'beds' on the road too. At night children would play 'kick and can' and other games in the lamplight. Sundays were very quiet days: no tennis, bowls or golf allowed, all shops shut. After church, families would walk to the Lily Burn, the reservoir or Binny Craig and then home for high tea.

The road to Dechmont from Uphall had no lighting and so was the great place for young people to meet on a Sunday night. Many a wedding was the outcome of young people meeting their future spouse on that road. On Uphall Golf Course the Brox Burn took a different course and was much more attractive than it is now. From the path leading down to the burn, in a dip was the mill pond, the water from which ran down a waterfall and led on to Houstoun Mill. The old mill sat low down near the burn and was operated by a Mr Hastie, who lived in a cottage behind Elm Bank House. Many older people will still have a photograph of the old mill. It was later converted into a house. Local boys swam in the mill pond on hot summer days and children paddled in the mill lade which had a wooden bottom. At the golf course the Broxburn was diverted later on to enable the car park to be built. Below the house called The Thorns was an area called the dell which was also a good place for children to play in safely and have picnics. This would no longer be allowed now that the golf club has become more professional.

Above Crossgreen farmyard was the Model Lodging House, 'the Model' as it was known. It stood in Thomson Court and was used by men looking for work on farms. It also housed vagrants who cooked for themselves on stoves provided by the House. The Model was run by a Mr and Mrs Roache. One of the residents was a man called Owen Hardy. When he was accused of poaching (probably rabbits) the policeman asked his name: 'Owen Hardy' and when asked how many rabbits he had caught answered 'Hardly any!' The Model is now a much altered building and is now Strathbrock Church Hall.

In the fields behind the Model you might see groups of men engaged in the game of pitch and toss – a gambling game. They were always on the lookout for police catching them as it was illegal at the time. Behind Muir's Building in the Main Street men played quoits.

Ecclesmachan in the old days was much more a part of Uphall. There were only a few houses built round a square in the middle of which was a drinking well, hence the name Well Park. There were also the old church and manse and the smiddy, the school and school house.

The minister was Mr Pinkerton and his wife was a friend to all in the village. If anyone had a minor accident Mrs Pinkerton would give first aid and tell the patient to go to see Dr Thomson in Uphall the next day. On many occasions the patient didn't need to visit the doctor, her ministrations were so good. Miss Bain was the schoolteacher in Ecclesmachan, greatly respected by all.

In Uphall there was a very able piano teacher, Miss Mabel Calder, daughter of a former headmaster of Uphall School. Many children were taught by Miss Calder, who was also the organist at Uphall North Church. She was a gifted musician and had been highly

educated. The church choir was led by Mr McCallum for many years. One of my earliest memories is of walking up the village to Miss Calder's at Dovehill for lessons and hearing 'Happy Days are Here Again' being blasted out by a gramophone from Tammy Johnston's shop! The early '20's were not happy days just after WW 1, but the song gave a lift to everyone. Uphall may be a more prosperous place nowadays, but when it was smaller everyone knew each other and people did help one another in times of trouble.

Margaret Wilson (nee Thomson), born 4 December 1921

Uphall and Shale

West Lothian was at the forefront of the industrial revolution in the 19th century. Due to the discovery of the production of oils from coal and shale by James 'Paraffin' Young and the abundance of shale in West Lothian shale mining led to a massive growth in the Broxburn and Uphall area. Our immediate locality was surrounded by shale mines. This led to many houses being built over the years by various oil companies to house the influx of workers and their families.

My grandfather worked in the shale mines, a latecomer starting when he was 16 years old, in the early 20th century. His job was to operate the locomotives underground to collect the shale mined by the miners in the deeper ends. He was paid £2. 10 shillings per week which was a fairly decent wage at that time. He felt that his experience in the shale mines was not as bad as coal mining. Shale was a solid rock unlike coal which would easily flake off and could be inhaled causing serious lung damage.

Crude oil production at Uphall ceased c.1923, however the refinery was then used to develop plant and processes for the refining of imported crude oils which were cheaper. Work on bi products of oil continued locally until the early 70's

By Tatsuya Haddow



West Lothian Digital offers cost effective, responsive web site design and digital marketing solutions to ambitious small to medium sized businesses who are looking for a marketing approach that delivers a real return on investment.

Learn how your business can rank above your competitors and generate leads from prospective customers who are actively looking for your product or service.

Contact us on 01506 794355 for a free web site review.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police

101 (non emergency number)
999 (emergency number)

Hospitals

St John's Hospital, Livingston 01506 523000
Edinburgh Royal Infirmary 0131 536 1000
Western General, Edinburgh 0131 537 1000
NHS 24 08454 24 24 24

Health Centre (Strathbrock Partnership Centre)

The Linden Practice 01506 771771
Ferguson Medical Practice 01506 771700
The Wood Medical Practice 01506 771800

West Lothian Council

All Enquiries 01506 775000
Uphall Community Centre 01506 854451

Schools

Uphall Primary School 01506 852516
St Nicholas Primary School 01506 853509
Broxburn Academy 01506 282300
St Margaret's Academy 01506 497104

Local Councillors

Tony Boyle 01506 281704
Diane Calder 01506 281706
Janet Campbell 01506 281706
Alex Davidson 01506 281704

Churches

Strathbrock Parish Church 01506 856433
Uphall South Parish Church 01506 852788
Broxburn Baptist Church 01506 857092
St John Cantius and Nicholas 01506 852040
New Life Christian Fellowship 07564054377

Local Web Links

Uphall Community Council - www.ucc.org.uk
Uphall CEC - www.uphallcommunitycentre.co.uk
Uphall On The Web - www.uphall.org
Uphall Primary - www.uphall-primary-school.com
Broxburn Academy - www.broxburnacademy.net
Uphall South Church - www.uphallsouthchurch.org.uk
New Life CF - www.newlifecf.org.uk
Strathbrock Parish - www.strathbrockparish.net
The BUSY Project - www.thebusyproject.org.uk
Broxburn and Uphall traders - www.buta.org.uk

Printing

and Stationery

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REMOVE THE **STRESS**
OF BUYING PRINT AND OFFICE SUPPLIES?

Leaflets • Letterheads • Brochures • Business Cards • Envelopes
Paper • Cartridges • Binders • Office Furniture • Boxes • Tapes

And much more

SCOTSERVE 
SCOTLAND LIMITED

Unit 6, Waverley Industrial Estate Bathgate

Tel: 01506 652362

bathgate@scotserve.com www.scotserve.com