

# BCIC NEWSLETTER

Barrhill Community Interest Company

## Welcome to Autumn

A warm welcome to the Autumn edition of the BCIC Newsletter, being circulated to all members of the Barrhill Community Interest Company. As well as including information on this year's BCIC Winter Fuel Payment and the new enhanced Bursary Fund, we include highlights from the BCIC Annual General Meeting held back in August for those members who couldn't attend in person. As always, we welcome comments, suggestions or concerns from any resident of Barrhill so please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

## BCIC News

### Winter Fuel Payment – have you received your letter?

By the time you receive this Newsletter EVERY home in Barrhill should have received a Winter Fuel Payment Application Form. This benefit is for everyone whose main and permanent residence is in Barrhill - not just BCIC Members. Full details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply and are set out in the letter you should have received via Royal Mail. There is a **deadline of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015** for you to complete and return your form to us with the relevant documentation. Please don't miss the deadline as no applications for this year's payment will be considered after this closing date. A sum of £120.00 will make sure everyone has a warm and comfortable winter – whatever the weather brings.



Deadline of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

### Enhanced bursary funds – more courses covered



The BCIC believes that education is one of the most important investments a community can make in its people. In September this year, after lengthy discussion by the Board, it was decided to take a fresh look at the existing programme and make some important improvements. From this autumn ANY resident applying to study at university away from home, taking up an apprenticeship, Open University or Short Course in any educational subject can now apply for funding. This means that more residents of Barrhill are eligible to apply. So, if you've always wanted to learn a new skill from Cake Decorating to Accounting now is your chance to receive financial support in achieving your dreams. Terms and conditions apply - for full details and application form please contact any BCIC Director or email us on [bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk) for the forms to be sent to you.

### Free Community Minibus Hire

If you are a group or organisation within Barrhill, such as the Gardening Club or Wee Whist or The Bowling Club, did you know you can hire out the Barrhill Community Mini Bus for a day outing ONCE a year *completely* FREE?. The bus can carry up to 14 people and the BCIC will pay for the hire plus a driver. This service is subject to availability of the minibus and driver so please bear this in mind when enquiring. For further details please contact any BCIC Director. Read on to hear how the Barrhill Camera Club recently made a trip to Glasgow using this free hire and think where you and your association would like to visit – the BCIC can make it happen.



Barrhill Camera Club Visit Glasgow Exhibition

Ten members of the Barrhill Camera club visited The Wildlife photographer of the Year Exhibition At the Scotland Street School Museum in Glasgow on Saturday 24th October. They were treated to an inspiring display of wildlife photographs from around the world as well as an interesting tour of the museum. On the way out of Glasgow they also visited the Burrell Collection which again provided an inspiring experience and provided many photographic opportunities for the members. Very many thanks to both BCIC and Saylsa for making this trip possible.

## BCIC Annual General Meeting



The BCIC held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August when Mr Phil Porter (Chairman) extended a warm welcome to everyone present which comprised 30 BCIC Members and 2 non-members.

The Chairman informed the meeting that due to the sad passing of Mrs Lily Niven (Chairman), he had been voted to hold this position until after the AGM. The Chairman also confirmed that Doug Niven and David Bowling had resigned as Directors. Mr Porter then went on to present the Chairman's Annual Activity Report, updating the attendees on the Car Park, Arnsheen Park, Winter Fuel Payment, Community Bus and Children's Activities.

**Car Park and Arnsheen Park** - The Chairman confirmed that the Car Park was nearing completion with only minimal work left to be carried out to finish the project, and confirmed the grand total for the project stands at £450,782.12 including VAT. With regards to Arnsheen Park, the Chairman confirmed that over the course of the past six months the BCIC have been working with Hags SMP to provide an area within the village everyone can enjoy. The Chairman stated that the Park is near completion with only minimal snagging work been carried out to finish the project. He confirmed there was a budget of £220,000.00 that the total cost to date is £221,313.34 with £59,893.33 outstanding. The Chairman went on to confirm there are several savings to be made to bring the cost back down in line with the budget. If these savings are made (approximately £2,313.00) the total cost of the project will be £219,000.34. The Chairman also stated there may be an additional £5,000.00 worth of savings made with regards to topsoil and welfare facilities.

The Chairman then informed the meeting that the BCIC Board were presented with a petition by a member of the community who wished for dogs to be allowed within the Park. On this petition there were 33 signatories who wished the aforesaid.

The BCIC then carried out their own questionnaire conducted door-to-door, and to all members of the community from the ages of primary school and up, to gauge public opinion on whether the Park should be dog-free. The Chairman confirmed that to date the BCIC received 127 names in favour of a dog-free environment. It was duly confirmed that the Park would therefore be dog-free until the wishes of the community decide otherwise.

**Winter Fuel and Community Bus** - The Winter Fuel Payment programme would once again be offered this year and the BCIC were hoping for more support for the Community Bus Trips in 2016, again sadly a few have had to be cancelled due to low numbers. He confirmed that the BCIC will be looking at this to establish if this is still a service that the community wants.

**Children's Activities** - The Chairman confirmed that last year a member of the community organised a trip to Belfast visiting W5, Ireland's award-winning science and discovery centre at the Odyssey. With over 250 interactive exhibits and an extensive programme of events, shows and exhibitions, W5 was a great choice of venue for this BCIC funded fun. He confirmed the BCIC would like to support more of these activities and would welcome any suggestions or ideas from members.



In conclusion the Chairman stated that over the course of the last year the BCIC Board has worked hard to provide the members of the community a better place to stay and enjoy. He hoped all members feel they have benefitted in some way from the work carried out by the present Board. He also reiterated that the BCIC Board is open to new ideas and welcome ANY feedback on any projects that have been carried out in the village.



**Financial Report** - The Chairman stated that as of June 2015 David Bowling had resigned as Treasurer and confirmed a breakdown of account balances currently held by the BCIC, totalling £230,554.52. The Chairman confirmed there is also £40,000.00 to come from the Kilgallioch Windfarm which he confirmed is expected very soon. This sum would increase monies held to £270,554.52. The Chairman confirmed the total cost of monies outstanding stands at £136,587.73 and that this would leave a total of £133,966.79 within the BCIC accounts.

**Retirement, Election and Re-Election of Directors** - The Chairman stated that there were five Directors' vacancies on the BCIC Board with John Thomson standing for re-election. In addition to this, four BCIC members had put themselves forward for election, namely Douglas Allan, Mark Bradshaw, Gavin Hughes and Sarah Malone. Following a vote (including proxy votes submitted) the result was that John Thomson plus the four BCIC Members were all voted on as Directors.

The AGM then concluded with an Open Forum, with BCIC Members present discussing the Winter Fuel Payment, Newsletter, Arnsheen Park, Dogs in the Park, Parking and Access Issues, the Long Term Maintenance of the Park, and Future Projects and Investments.

To close, the Chairman thanked all attendees and looked forward to up-dating the community in the near future.

## Community Council News

### Heartstart Course

Barrhill Community Council organised a Heartstart Course held in September and was attended by 21 residents. It was a most interesting evening with a mix of filmed examples followed by practical work which made the subject much more comprehensible. The course covered resuscitation, choking, bleeding, how to put people in the recovery position and how to deal with medical emergencies in a safe manner. The evening finished with a practical session which was enjoyed by everyone (both young and old) as you'll see from these photographs. Let's hope no-one finds themselves in such a situation where they need to use these new skills – but at least having completed the course they are going to be well prepared.

The Community Council thanks Brenda Gemmill and the Heartstart team for running this course. Please feel free to contact anyone on the Community Council if you would like to attend a future Heartstart Course – if the demand is there from Barrhill residents then another course will be organised for you.



During the course, when practicing mouth-to-mouth, the dummy's head unfortunately detached from the body leading to much laughter from the attendees. We were assured this doesn't normally happen in real life!

### Defibrillator now installed – Important Information



We are happy to report that the newly installed automatic defibrillator is now located on the wall of the Doctor's surgery. It is enclosed in a lockable cabinet that has a digital access code. In the event of a suspected heart attack the first thing to do is shout for help and dial 111 and call for an ambulance. Then either go for the defibrillator or ask someone to get it for you. The defibrillator is simple to use. There are two pads that need to be attached to the patient (the pads have pictures on them to show how to attach them to the person you are helping). Once these are attached simply turn the defibrillator on and it will give verbal instructions on how to use it. Hopefully, the defibrillator will never need to be used.

If you need to collect the defibrillator in an emergency, then call any of the following for the access code:

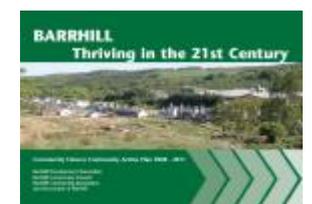
James Duffie - 07768 767083, Dave Russell - 07795 321009, Celia Strain – 01465 821333 or Ann Robertson - 07766 740179. Make sure you keep these numbers readily to hand to reduce the delay in getting access to the defibrillator.

### Barrhill Community Action Plan – your contribution is needed

We are pleased to announce that the Community Council has been successful in obtaining a grant from CARES/Local Energy Scotland to update the current Community Action Plan, last produced in 2008. The Community Action Plan is an essential document to assist the BCIC and the community in planning future projects to be funded by the community windfarm benefit. It will also assist the community in acquiring match funding for future projects and investments. The McKenzie Wilson Partnership, a marketing and business development consultancy, was appointed to carry out this project and will be sending out a questionnaire to every member of the community to complete.

Both Barrhill Community Council and BCIC implore you to complete and return these forms in order to get a fair representation of your views on the future of Barrhill and the surrounding area. It is expected that an open event will also be held in the Community Hall for you to express your views. This process is expected to take a few months and once completed a copy of the updated Community Action Plan will be sent to every household within the community.

If you have any questions on the Community Action Plan you'd like to raise then please do get in touch with the Community Council Chairman David Russell.



**DON'T FORGET**

*Complete and return your survey*

## WITH GRATEFUL THANKS FROM THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

We're sure you will join us in passing on a very *big* thank you to Annie Clarke for her wonderful flower presentations this year in and around our village.

Throughout the summer months Annie has been seen pushing her wheel barrow around the village and watering all the beautiful plants and tubs. With watering can and secateurs in hand, and giving the odd trim and prune where needed - we are sure you will agree when we say that without Annie's hard work and dedication (not to say the many miles covered) to care for the plants and tubs, our village would not have looked so beautiful.

With winter around the corner, Annie has been busy with spring bulb planting so we can all look forward to a 'blooming' lovely spring display in Barrhill. The photograph on the right shows Annie attending the recent BBC Radio 4 Gardener's Question Time recording which took place in Ayr Town Hall on behalf of the charity 'Gardening Leave'. For more details on this worthwhile cause please visit [www.gardeningleave.org](http://www.gardeningleave.org).



Annie Clarke at the recent  
Radio 4 GQT Recording



*Thank you Annie*

## Your new BCIC Board

Following on from the recent AGM and subsequent BCIC Meeting held in September, we are pleased to announce the following appointment of BCIC Office Bearers:

Simon Redman – Chairman

Philip Porter – Vice Chairman

Angela Blackstock – Company Secretary & Memberships

Mark Bradshaw – Treasurer

David Russell, Johnnie Thomson, Gavin Hughes, Sarah Malone, Euan Allan - Directors

Please contact the BCIC using the following email address: [bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk) or by telephone using the names and numbers listed below:

Simon Redman – 01465 821538 or at Creeside Farm, Barrhill

Angela Blackstock – 01465 821402 or at 59 Main Street, Barrhill

## We'd like to hear from you – so get in touch

The BCIC wants to hear from you! We were set up and run entirely for your benefit and to make Barrhill a better place to live for all of us. The BCIC Directors meet once a month and are ready and waiting to talk about your comments, ideas, concerns and wishes. Please take the opportunity of letting us know what's important to you and how you would like your BCIC Directors help shape the future of Barrhill.

To close, we hope you've enjoyed reading this copy of the BCIC Newsletter and would like to extend our best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

*The BCIC Board*