

BCIC NEWSLETTER

Barrhill Community Interest Company



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

A warm welcome to the Spring Edition of the BCIC Newsletter - after such a challenging winter we are sure you'll join us in looking forward to the warmer weather returning once again. In this edition, as well as looking back on some BCIC highlights of 2015, we are hoping to inspire you to become more involved in reviving Barrhill 's ' Community Spirit'. There are so many ways each and every resident of our beautiful village can build a better future and a strong community – just by getting involved in what's happening and making use of the generous financial support available via the BCIC. Read on to be inspired and make a difference.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

Arnsheen Park



In July 2015 the BCIC were delighted to formally open Arnsheen Activity Park – a long overdue community facility that has been warmly welcomed by young and old. The BCIC was also involved in organising community and school bus trips, as well as offering financial support via the BCIC grant and bursary schemes. There was free community minibus hire available to any group or organisation in Barrhill, as well as the popular garden maintenance programme, available to those in need between the months of April to October. The BCIC also helped fund the Defibrillator installation at the Doctor's Surgery, ensuring the wellbeing of residents is safe guarded in an emergency. In November the BCIC launched an enhanced bursary fund scheme which enabled more residents than ever before to take up the challenge of learning a new skill or pursuing full or part-time education. Finally, the year drew to a close with the BCIC Winter Fuel Payment being made available to those eligible to apply, with a total of 129 homes being paid the sum of £120.00, totalling £15,480. Hopefully the Winter Fuel Payment went a long way to making sure the residents of Barrhill stayed warm through the long winter months. Our thanks to those residents who took the time to get in touch to thank the BCIC Board for making it happen.

Community Bus Trips

School Outings

Enhanced Bursary Scheme

Free Minibus Hire

Small Grant Funding

Defibrillator

Garden Maintenance

Winter Fuel Payment



A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH GRASS CUTTING AT ARNSHEEN PARK

For full details

Contact the BCIC Directors or email: bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk

Have you a few hours to spare through the summer months to help keep Arnsheen Park looking good? We are looking for volunteers from the local community to help out with various maintenance jobs needed such as grass cutting etc. If you can help out then we'll be delighted to hear from you.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SPIRIT?

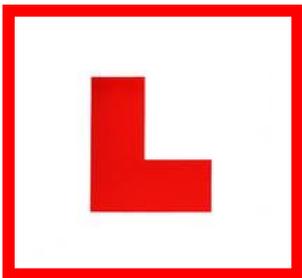


What makes a community worth belonging to and how can we foster a stronger community spirit within Barrhill? How can each of us maximise our creative talents and regenerate our village? How can we make the future brighter for future generations?.

It's the strength of a community's spirit that helps determine its ability to move forward and meet the future head on; we are luckier than many communities, in that we have access to financial support to implement educational, environmental and community amenity projects to benefit ALL residents. However, any success depends on an authentic community spirit existing within the community. It is vital there is a connection and responsibility felt between people. Only when we act together can we face the big challenges, issues and opportunities of the 21st century. Whatever projects are undertaken by the BCIC on behalf of the community, no matter how many new projects are completed, or individuals supported, unless a true community spirit exists there will be no real 'community' as such. The questions we pose are 'how can we truly live and act together to engage with others? How can we look beyond our own wants and needs to see the bigger picture?

The future success of Barrhill is in all our hands – let's meet it head on.

LEARNING TO DRIVE IN 2016? NEW BCIC BENEFIT AVAILABLE!



Are you learning to drive this year? If so, then the BCIC help you take to the road!. Living in rural Scotland means that accessing work, college, shops, services and social and leisure destinations can be tricky without a car. The BCIC think it's important we help make your journey towards independence a little easier.

A one-off payment of £150.00 is now available to all Barrhill residents who book their driving test in 2016. Documentary proof of driving test booking will be required so please contact any BCIC Director for more details. *Terms & Conditions apply**

SPRING PLANTING BY THE PUPILS



With the help of parents and members of the community, pupils of Barrhill Primary School have been busy planting spring bulbs in the tubs and planters at Arnsheen Park – made possible with BCIC funding to purchase the bulbs and compost. The pupils would like to pass on their grateful thanks to everyone involved for their hard work, managing to get everything done before the rain set in!. Because of their kindness, time and effort, we can all look forward to a lovely display of flowers in the spring. The BCIC always welcome ideas from residents on how we can make the village a more beautiful place to live, so if you have an idea or scheme in mind please do get in touch and we'll do all we can to make it happen.

Thank you from the whole community



BCIC SMALL GRANT FUND

The BCIC Small Grant Fund gives groups or individuals a chance to apply for a grant to help fund projects that aim to improve our local community and the lives of our residents. The BCIC will support a range of educational, environmental and general community amenity projects and you can apply for Small Grant Funding if you are a not for profit/voluntary or community group/organisation.

We will fund a range of projects which involve bringing local people together, helping people learn, improving local spaces and getting people more active. The Small Grant Fund can be used for new project activity, start-up costs for a new group or service, or build upon the good work already in place. All you have to remember is the overall aim of the grants is to support activity which will sustain and develop the life of the community of Barrhill.

If you would like to hear more about the BCIC Small Grant Fund then we encourage you to discuss it with any BCIC Director. New ideas can be emailed for informal comment to bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk before making an official application. Remember – this fund is open to all so if you've always wanted to set up a group, take on a major project or start an activity here in Barrhill now is the time to do it.

BARRHILL'S COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Barrhill Community Council have kindly up-dated us on the Community Action Plan and the good news is it is progressing well. The Open Day held on 23rd January 2016 was well attended. It's interesting to learn that a typical returns level on a study such as this and on a small population is between 30 – 40%. Sometimes it can be as low as 5%. Barrhill is obviously very interested in getting the most out of the Action Plan as to date there have been over 125 returned surveys. As 270 were sent out in the post, we are already reaching a 47% return. All in all this is an excellent start to this important project. The Community Council have asked the BCIC to let you all know that there is still a short time available to get your questionnaires completed using the on-line tool and using the unique code on your original document. Please complete the questionnaire if you haven't already done so the more opinions received, the better the up-dated Community Action Plan will be.

Once the Action Plan has been completed a copy will be delivered to every household within Barrhill.

BAG IT & BIN IT



Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocaraiasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness and seizures. Whilst we appreciate that many local dog owners are caring, responsible individuals unfortunately there have been reports of an increase in dog mess within the village. Dog dirt bags have been purchased by the Community Council and are freely available from the shop for all dog owners, so please pop in and get some if you haven't done so already. Please note – it is an offence not to pick it up, so if you see anyone not picking up after their dog feel free to report them to the Barrhill Community Council.

*Together we can
plan Barrhill's
future*



- EDUCATION
- TRANSPORT
- FACILITIES



COMING UP IN 2016

The BCIC Board is hoping to arrange a couple of very special events in 2016 – one in the summer and another in early November, so keep your eyes open for posters advertising these. We'll be looking for volunteers to help at these events too, so please consider putting your name forward. Community events are a great way of bringing everyone together, in the hope of bringing about a positive change in the village. Watch this space.....

BURSARY FUND

Now's the time to learn a new skill – and to help you along receive a BCIC Bursary.

Whether you're off to university, studying at home or thinking about taking an evening class please go get in touch and receive financial support. Terms and conditions apply – for full details and application form contact any BCIC Director or email us on bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk for the forms to be sent to you.



*Don't Forget
Apply for a
Bursary in
2016*

GARDEN MAINTENANCE



Are you a resident of Barrhill? Are you over the age of 70? Do you have a health issue that makes cutting your own grass difficult? Then now is the time to get in touch with the BCIC. We can arrange a grass cutting service between the months of April and October (this service is not available to people who live in council houses as they will be able to get the council to cut their grass). The only stipulation is that the grass is of lawn standard to begin with. Get in touch with any BCIC Director for full details.

YOUR BCIC BOARD

Chairman - Simon Redman
01465 821538 or at Creeside Farm, Barrhill

Vice Chairman - Philip Porter

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

Get in touch - either in person or using the BCIC email address of bcicbarrhill@yahoo.co.uk. If you have an idea or would like to talk about starting a new project or seek financial support for an existing group or organisation, then we would be more than happy to arrange an informal face-to-face chat to get things going.

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of the BCIC Newsletter and look forward to hearing from you soon. We wish you a Happy Easter and a very successful start to 2016.



BARRHILL
Memorial Hall
Saturday 26th March 2016 - 11am to 3pm
Easter Craft Fair
3rd Family Fun Day
Decorated Egg Competition
for ALL ages
male and female
Easter Bonnet Competition
To book a table (£10) please contact Beckie 01465 821098 or rebecca.whitehurst1@gmail.com
Come and join our Easter Bonnet Parade

The Easter Craft Fair will be opened with an Easter Bonnet parade **open to all** with a prize for the winner. There will be an egg roll in the park, crafts and raffle. Soup and roll lunches available.

The BCIC Board