



## Special Edition Newsletter



### Welcome, By Councillor Brian McCaig

As Convener of Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (LCJA) it is my pleasure to introduce the special edition newsletter which focuses on Community Service in Lanarkshire. There has clearly been a lot of hard work undertaken to improve the physical appearance of communities, highlight places of interest and increase benefits for local communities such as clearing snow and growing fresh vegetables for use in local communities. I hope you find this edition of Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority Special Edition newsletter interesting and informative.

*Brian McCaig*

## Introduction of Community Payback

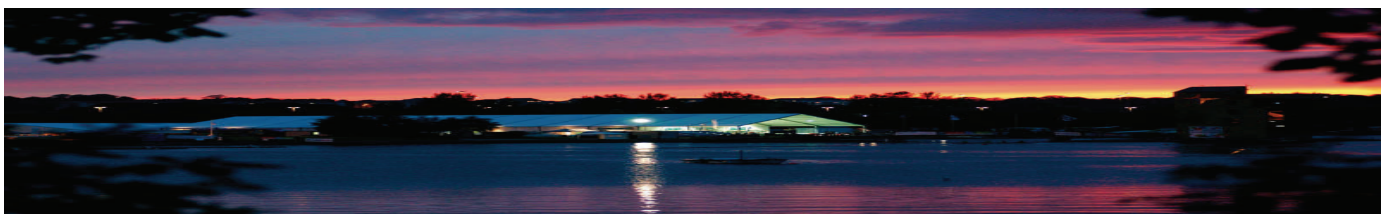
The following newsletter gives a brief overview of some of the work that has been carried out in Lanarkshire by Community Service teams over the last few months.

In the future it is intended that Community Payback Orders will soon replace Community Service Orders.

This means that Courts will be given the power to sentence offenders of certain crimes to undertake between 20 and 300 hours of unpaid work or activity.

Community Payback has four main elements:

1. Provision of better information to Courts about offenders.
2. Help to make local areas safer whilst making sure that the work undertaken is visible within communities.
3. Working with Local Authorities and Community Justice Authorities to ensure that Community Payback Orders commence as quickly as possible.
4. Improving local communities.



## Severe Weather Conditions

During the severe weather in December and January, Community Service Teams were out helping to grit roads, paths and clear snow.

North and South Lanarkshire Council at the height of the bad weather provided approximately 2253 hours of work per week to help minimise the effects of the cold weather!

The work undertaken was targeted to help some of the most vulnerable people in Lanarkshire for example clearing paths and roads at:

- Local churches (which allowed a funeral to take place).
- Disabled parking bays
- Entrances to day care services
- Children's homes
- Some Town Centres
- Footpaths of elderly residents

In addition the teams also helped to deliver fire logs and kindling to some residents.



## Spanish Civil War, Monument, Blantyre

A monument designed to honour three Blantyre men killed in the Spanish Civil War was unveiled in October 2009. The three men were part of a larger group from Lanarkshire who joined the International Brigades to fight in support of the Spanish Government.

South Lanarkshire Council's Community Service Team was formally acknowledged for their contribution in helping to erect this memorial and the work that they undertook in landscaping the area to provide a pathway and an area where visitors can view the monument.



## Clydeside Project

Last year the Community Service Team in North Lanarkshire brought on from seed a variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers producing over 10 tons of potatoes, 100lbs of tomatoes, 400 + of cucumbers; lettuce; beet-roots; red onions; onions; chillies; runner beans; cabbages; leeks; carrots; turnips; asparagus; garlic; raspberries; blackcurrants and redcurrants.

Flowers have also been brought on from seed for use in hanging baskets and filled flower boxes.

After being checked out and given the green light by North Lanarkshire Council Environmental Health Department all produce that came from the Clydeside Project was given to children's homes and nursing homes throughout North Lanarkshire.



## Douglas Water (near Lanark)

A small management committee secured lottery funding to help restore a wetland area adjacent to the site of an old and now almost forgotten mining village.

Community Service were able to provide labour, technical expertise and equipment to clear overgrown vegetation that had hidden the site from public view.

The Community Service Team constructed and restored pathways based on some of the old streets of the village as well as restoring a bird watching "hide" beside the wetland area and planting hundreds of young trees.

This site, now provides a useable open space for walking and enjoying this part of rural Lanarkshire as well as providing access for those who wish to enjoy bird watching and the wildlife that now thrives in these restored wetlands.



## Tact Hall Community Centre, Blantyre

TACT Community Hall was built in 1988. It is run jointly by a local management committee and South Lanarkshire Council. The Management Committee of the TACT Hall applied for Lottery funding to build and run a neighbourhood allotment project. The project means that local residents, school groups and other supported community groups will have the opportunity to experience growing their own fruit and vegetables. It is also hoped that this project will encourage local residents to grow their own produce, eat more healthily.

South Lanarkshire Council Community Service and Supervised Attendance Teams were able to help the project achieve far more than their lottery grant would have provided for by assisting with, labour, some technical expertise and equipment to help construct the allotment.

The project was very visible in the local Community and gave offenders the chance to see the results of their hard work being appreciated by schools and many other community groups.





## Minister Praises Work of Restorative Justice

Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill visited DunCarron – The Clanranald fortified village on Tuesday 14 July 2009 to find out first hand how North Lanarkshire Council's Restorative Justice Team have been helping develop the site.

Lillian Cringles, Manager, Justice Services said: "It was great to welcome the Minister to North Lanarkshire and show him the good work being done here".

"We started the project in August 2008 and expect to be finished the initial build in 2010. So far our Service Users have invested approximately 9040 hours into building the fort, using old fashioned methods of building and carrying."

"We need a good range of projects and work that offenders can carry out. I've seen projects across Scotland ranging from gardening to cleaning park benches, but this is the first one I've seen where they are helping to build a tourist and educational attraction."

Charlie Allan of the Clanranald Trust, the organisation behind the reconstruction, added: "The work carried out by North Lanarkshire Council's Restorative Justice Team has been invaluable.

"We have great ambitions for this project and hope that it will be used by schools to bring to life what life was like a thousand years ago and that it will become a major tourist attraction.

"When completed, it will be typical of the Scottish Clan Chief's residence throughout the earlier part of the last millennium."

## Operation Sentinel, Halfway Cambuslang

Community Service were approached by South Lanarkshire Council's Anti Social Behaviour team looking for assistance with Operation Sentinel. This is an initiative involving Police, Housing and the Anti Social Behaviour Unit which was designed to address problems of vandalism, litter and anti social behaviour that has affected the Halfway area of Cambuslang for a number of years.

The Community Service Team worked in partnership with Community Wardens to clean up litter in the area completely removing a quarter of an acre area of overgrown vegetation and repainting 8 three story common closes that had been seriously blighted by graffiti.

This is the third largest joint initiative of its kind in the Rutherglen and Cambuslang area. It was specifically designed to address serious problems within the neighbourhood with a long term plan that Housing staff and Community Wardens would continue to work in partnership with local residents to maintain the improved standards that the Community Service team had helped achieve.



## Shotts Congregational Church

The Community Service Team in North Lanarkshire worked to transform an overgrown piece of land beside Shotts Congregational Church into a remembrance and sensory garden. This took 10,000 hours, 98% of the material used was from recycled material and the total cost to the Church was £50.00.



# Contact Us

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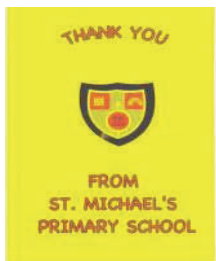
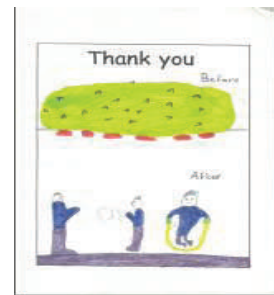
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We are on the Web!  
[www.lanarkshirecja.org.uk](http://www.lanarkshirecja.org.uk)

“If you are interested in having an initiative highlighted in the next issue please contact Joanne or Roberta.”

We are working on a new Area Plan for Lanarkshire please let us know if you would like a copy of our draft plan and we will send this out in the post to you. Alternatively you can access this document on our website.

# Thank You



Here are a small selection of some of the thank you letters that the Community Service Teams have received from a wide range of members of the public showing their appreciation for works completed.

