

news from the Centre

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PROVIDING THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ST BRIDE'S CENTRE

THIS ISSUE

Going Green

New Biomass
Heating scheme

Progress Update

Iain Waller our
Development
Coordinator gives us
the latest news

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right for you

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pedalling for the centre

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A change of status

All Change

Some new developments at St. Bride's

The past six
months have
seen some big
changes at St.
Bride's Centre.



Following our award of £71,000 from the Big Lottery's Investing in Communities programme, we've been taking forward the plans to buy and redevelop the centre to make it fit for purpose in the twenty first century.

One of the key changes was approved at our last AGM and we're now in the final throws of putting in place a new legal structure for Douglas St. Bride's Community Group, the volunteer management body for the Centre. Like most organisations of this kind, the group is to become a company limited by guarantee.

A second key change involves our antiquated heating system. The Centre

currently runs two oil-fired boilers to heat the building, and, as we're sure you'll be aware, fuel costs currently make this an expensive system to operate. Thanks to Community Energy Scotland and South Lanarkshire Council, we're on track to install a new biomass heating plant at the Centre.

Thirdly, we're delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the Centre to swell our existing team of Elizabeth and Sandra. Janice joins us on a part time basis and has already become established as a well known face. We wish her well in her new post. We'd also like to congratulate Elizabeth and Sandra on their nominations for South Lanarkshire Council Customer Service Awards.

NEW ST. BRIDE'S

Iain, our Development Coordinator, gives us an update on progress with our plans to redevelop the centre

Scotland's first community owned biomass district heating scheme involving a number of distinct organisations.

Going Green

Work will start soon on installing the new biomass heating system at St Brides, this should reduce our running costs as well as see a significant reduction in our carbon footprint. Not only that, the plant will also provide heat to the Bowling Club and St. Bride's Church from what is thought to be Scotland's first community owned biomass district heating scheme involving a number of distinct organisations. The company chosen through a tender process is TRECO and a trading subsidiary has been set-up with representation from the 3 groups involved. The plant is due to be up and running by May so look out for details of our special switch on event around then.



The six months since I started my job at the St Bride's Centre have just flown by, but I hope in that time we've made some good progress towards the aim of redeveloping the Centre to provide a facility that everyone in Douglas can be proud of. Along with a gym, space for

funders and we should have a good idea towards the end of April about the success of our most important applications. At the moment we'll keep up our efforts and ensure that we do all we can to secure the funds to make the project happen.

The six months since I started my job at the St Bride's Centre have just flown by



childcare facilities, seminar and interview rooms and improved cafe facilities we hope to make the Centre an attractive space that will be central to the life of the community, socially and in many other ways. I've learnt a huge amount in this job so far and look forward to continuing to work with everyone at the Centre to make the redevelopment project the success that it deserves to be.

Perhaps most important to making sure that we are able to realise our plans is securing the money that we need. At the moment we're trying to finalise the way in which we'll do this. We've submitted a significant number of applications to various

We recently secured funding from the South Lanarkshire Rural Communities Trust to develop a website for the Centre. The website will help us to keep everyone up to date on the redevelopment project as well as providing an easy way to find out about what's going on at the Centre. We hope that the site will be up and running over the next couple of months.

I'm based the Centre and on most days you'll be able to find me in the computer room. If there's ever anything that you would like to find a bit more about the project, or if you have any questions please feel free to drop in at any time. You can also get in touch by email using iain@stbrides-centre.org.uk. I'll look forward to hearing from you!

SARAH AND ADAM HIT THE ROAD

Local couple Sarah and Adam Peters will be pulling on their cycling shorts and helmets in May to cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End (approx 950 miles) to raise funds for the Centre's redevelopment. They are going to do the ride over 14 days and will be carrying all their kit. This is a huge undertaking and we wish them both well with their training



CLASSES

Forthcoming events and regular clubs, classes and activities

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9.30-11.30am Mums & Toddlers Come and meet with other Mums and let your toddlers have fun 3.30-4.30pm Juniors 5-9yrs 4.30-5.30pm Seniors 10 + SLAM Dance Academy Come and learn some funky moves 6.00-7.00pm Rainbows For girls aged 5-7 yrs 7.00-8.00pm Brownies For girls aged 7-10 yrs 7.00-8.00pm Brownies Lifestyle Slimming	1.00-3.00pm 1 O'Clock Club Indoor bowls, whist and more 7.30-9.00pm Yoga All levels welcome at this popular class	9.30-11.30am Mums & Toddlers Come and meet with other Mums and let your toddlers have fun 5.00-6.00pm Karate Boys and Girls of all ages are welcome Also runs on a Sunday	6.00-7.30pm Beavers Boys aged 6 yrs up 6.00-7.30pm Cubs Boys aged 7½ yrs up 7.30-9.00pm Scouts Boys and girls aged 10½ yrs up 7.00-9.00pm Art Class Come and learn new skills with local artist Andrew Ronney	9.30-11.30am Mums & Toddlers Come and meet with other Mums and let your toddlers have fun



efforts. You can sponsor them by filling out the sponsor sheets located around the village. We hope to have a couple of exercise bikes in the centre so that willing volunteers can support Sarah and Adam by 'matching their miles' and also raising much needed cash for the Centre's facelift. You can follow Sarah and Adam's training and their regular daily updates on their journey from South to North by visiting their blog at www.stbridescycle.wordpress.com. Good luck and happy pedalling to you both!

Why not make St. Bride's your first choice for parties, celebrations and events. We can offer a range of facilities and catering services to suit your specific needs. For more information, or to book, please call 01555 850019.

St Bride's Directors

Sinclair Scott - Chair
John Gold - Secretary
Sarah Peters - Treasurer
Robert Wilson
Jim Fleming
Anne Leitch
Betty McFarlane
Kath Grieg
Lesley Mackinnon

Why not become a fan of Douglas St. Bride's Community Centre on social networking site www.facebook.com! Just type our name into the search bar to find us. We hope to be able to provide regular progress on the development project as well as forthcoming events. Look out for our new website, which is under development.

St Bride's Centre

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Managed by Douglas
St Bride's Community Group
A Company limited by Guarantee
Registered in Scotland - SC020530
Registered Scottish Charity - SC020530



Becoming a Member

Recently the Douglas St Bride's Community Group has changed its status to a company limited by guarantee, Members (shareholders) get no financial benefit. If the company fails, their only liability is to contribute a maximum of £1 towards its debts. This limited liability is an important safeguard for people giving of their time voluntarily. The company's constitution is its Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A). The group will maintain its charitable status and continue to operate on a 'not for profit' basis. Information on how to become a member can be found below.

This is a membership organisation. Essentially, that means that St. Bride's centre is now managed (and soon to be owned) by anyone who subscribes as a member of the group. Membership is open to anyone over 16 and costs £1 annually. Becoming a member demonstrates your support for the Centre and entitles you to vote at the AGM. As a member, you're also eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors, the voluntary management body responsible for overseeing day to day running of the Centre.

Membership Registration Form

Name:

Address:

Contact No:

If you would like to receive news and updates via email fill out your address below.

email:

Why I'd like to become a member of Douglas St Bride's Community Group:

Other local groups and organisations to which I am affiliated (if any):

I enclose my initial £1 annual membership fee:

Signature:

Please return to the St Bride's Centre