

TheView

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council

JUNE 2018



BLITZ ON BLUE BIN BLUNDERS

RESIDENTS across South Lanarkshire are being urged to be more vigilant with items they put for recycling in their blue bins.

Contamination of the blue paper and card bins has increased recently and is costing the council thousands of pounds in penalties as well as a loss of potential income from recycled material.

In April alone the cost was almost £60,000 – money that would otherwise be available to spend on services for local people.

The most common types of contamination found in recycling bins are black bag waste (for example bags of rubbish that should go in the green/black bin), nappies, food waste, glass, electrical items, textiles and shoes.

Refuse collection crews have been checking recycling bins and are now only emptying those that appear to contain the correct material. Bins which are not collected will have their lids left open and will be collected within 24 hours but this material will not be recycled.

During June and July stickers will be put on residents' blue paper and card bins to remind them what can and can't go in them.

From July (in the East Kilbride, Rutherglen and Cambuslang areas) and August (in the Hamilton and Clydesdale areas) onwards, a yellow tag will be placed on any resident's bin that can't be collected because the wrong items have been presented for recycling. If your bin has been tagged it won't be

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BUSINESSHELP

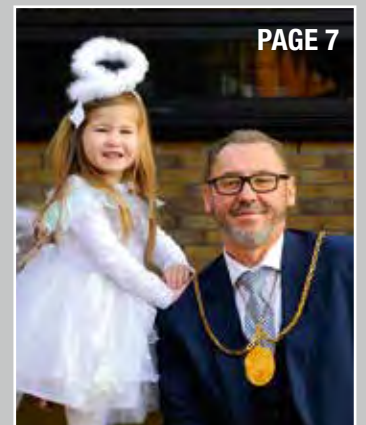


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CONTAMINATION IS COSTING US ALL CASH

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collected until the next non-recyclable waste collection.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council John Ross said: "The continued contamination of blue bins is costing the council money and we are absolutely determined to improve the quality of our paper and card recycling.

"We appreciate that there may be some residents who are unsure as to what exactly should and shouldn't be going in the blue bin.

"This is why we are trying to raise awareness and the first step in doing so is the stickers which will let people know this information.

"They can of course also go on to our website where all the information is available.

"Following on from this we will 'tag' any bin which has contaminated waste and it will not be picked up by our recycling teams. We would ask people to put the bin out the following week when it will be picked up alongside their general refuse.

"I know most people are very vigilant and determined to recycle as much material as they can and we thank them for doing so.

"We just want to make sure people who perhaps aren't as aware have the information they need to recycle correctly."

There are some flats in South Lanarkshire which, because of space and/or access restrictions, still make use of mixed recycling blue bins. Those residents only can still present your blue bin every two weeks (rather than every four weeks) you can recycle more than paper and card in your blue bin. To check what should go in your mixed recycling blue bin go to the bin directories page at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/recyclinginflats

Paper

Accepted: newspapers, magazines, leaflets, phone directories, envelopes (fully intact including glue and windows), brochures, office paper, letters, catalogues, unwanted mail, shredded paper, wrapping paper, paperback books. Hardback books are also accepted but we would always recommend that these are re-used or donated to a charity shop.

NOT accepted: tissues, napkins, paper towels, nappies, laminated paper, padded envelopes, wet paper, textiles, Pringles tubes.

Card

Accepted: cereal boxes, brown corrugated packaging, sleeves from ready meals, toilet/kitchen roll tubes, greeting cards, cardboard egg boxes, toothpaste boxes

NOT accepted: Drinks and food cartons, wet card, wet cardboard, takeaway food boxes (for example pizza boxes) if contaminated with food.

For more details go to bit.ly/SLCBlueBin



April 2018

Material collected from blue bins totalled **801 tonnes**

More than half (**439 tonnes**) was rejected and sent to landfill because of contamination

Cost to council taxpayers **£58,180**

Jobs boost as 100 new posts created

COMMUNITIES around South Lanarkshire are set to benefit as the council launches a recruitment drive to fill 100 new, paid training posts.

50 student posts in early years work are on offer under a programme designed to meet the growing demand for trained staff in the sector with funded hours for younger children rising.

A further 50 posts are being created in order to help meet the demand for qualified social care workers in residential care, day care and home care.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council Councillor John Ross said: "We aim to deliver the best quality of care provided in both early years and social care settings and that is dependent on there being a skilled workforce available.



"I am delighted that we are able to support the establishment of these 100 new, paid training posts which will offer local people the chance to train for careers in these

sectors and support the council in delivering the best possible care."

The students will receive an annual salary of £16,861 while they train and will be move into employment with the council as vacancies become available once they complete their qualifications.

The early years opportunities are aimed at people aged 16-19 and the students will undertake a Level 3 VQ in Childcare as well as the three additional

modules to enable them to meet the Scottish Social Services Council practitioner qualification requirement.

Training is expected to take a minimum of 18 months to complete.

For Social Care, recruitment will take place in local communities and training will be based in council operated facilities such as residential homes, day care centres or children's centres.

Students will undertake a Level 2 VQ in Social Services and Health Care (Adults and Older Care) which should take around 12 months to complete.

Delivering the training programmes will support a further seven new jobs.

The training programmes are initially being funded for two years at an annual cost of £2m and additional recruitment beyond the first 100 may be possible as individuals graduate from their course.



KEEP ON RUNNING: Members of local athletics clubs who will benefit from the funding are joined by (rear centre, left to right) Karen McNally, Active Schools Manager, SLLC; Councillor David Watson, Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure Trust; South Lanarkshire Deputy Provost Collette Stevenson; and Scottish Athletics Chief Executive Officer Mark Munro.

More affordable homes on way thanks to increase in funding

ADDITIONAL funding by the Scottish Government to support the delivery of affordable new homes in Scotland has been welcomed by South Lanarkshire Council.

This money comes on top of increased three year grant funding resources allocated to councils in 2017 to develop their Strategic Housing Investment Plans to achieve the national target of 50,000 new homes by March 2021.

South Lanarkshire Council has committed to delivering 1000 new homes by March 2021 and, working with partner housing associations, its Strategic Housing Investment Plan demonstrates there is capacity for over 2000 new affordable homes for rent across South Lanarkshire.

Councillor Josh Wilson, Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee said: "We have already proven our ability to deliver with over 168 new council homes completed towards our 1000 target, a further 378 on site or at design stage in addition to the 200 new housing association homes completed in 2017/18.

"Working with the Scottish Government on our own programme and with partner registered social landlords, a total of £21.5 million grant funding has contributed to delivering new affordable homes in 2017/18.

"The financial resources allocated to South Lanarkshire (Resource Planning Assumption) increased to £101,865m following the award of additional resources in 2017/18 and 2018/19. These additional resources will allow us to bring forward projects and help accelerate both council and registered social landlords affordable housing development programmes to meet local housing need."

Young athletes to reap rewards of new investment

HUNDREDS of young athletes are being helped to keep on the right track thanks to major new funding in South Lanarkshire.

A total of £115,000 is being invested by South Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) to ensure that members of local clubs can access the best quality of training facilities in the most cost effective way.

The organisations are reducing the cost of access to their facilities by athletics clubs – and investment of £35,000 – while the council is also undertaking an £80,000 upgrading of the running track at John Wright Sports Centre, in East Kilbride.

Around 120 young athletes from East Kilbride Athletics Club and Whitemoss Athletics Club already use John Wright Sports Centre twice a week for training, while Law AAC have been encouraged by the funding to increase their training sessions by adding a weekend session.

Law's weekend session will be shared with Larkhall YMCA Harriers who are looking to return to using a South Lanarkshire track as a result of the investment.

Representatives of the council and SLLC met with athletes and coaches, as well as reps from Scottish Athletics, at John Wright Sports Centre and the reaction to the funding was universally positive.

Councillor David Watson, Chair of SLLC, said: "This is a tremendous boost to athletics clubs in our area, and it is clear that is well deserved and a highly effective use of funding when you see the fitness and enthusiasm of so many young athletes.

"The hours and effort the coaches and club officials put in are tremendous and inspiring, and we are only too happy to help in this way.

"It is particularly encouraging, however, that the effects of the investment are being seen as early as this, with clubs already looking to increase the chances for young people to train and even looking to come back to using South Lanarkshire facilities.

"That is why we are delighted to help with this investment and why we will continue to assist all sport in South Lanarkshire in any way we can."

NEW COMMUNITY WING PACKED FULL OF FEATURES FOR STRATHAVEN LOCALS

THE new Avondale Community Wing in Strathaven opened recently.

The state-of-the-art facility, which adjoins the new St Patrick's Primary School, is the latest integrated community facility in South Lanarkshire and features a suite of flexible spaces for hire as well as a new look library. It provides a much needed replacement for the existing Ballgreen Hall and Strathaven Library on Glasgow Road.

The community space consists of four separate areas which

can be booked individually as smaller spaces, or joined together as larger spaces depending on need. There is an integrated bar, community kitchen with catering standard equipment and a fantastic sound and lighting system, making it fully equipped for functions and meetings.

The new library has a relaxed seating area where customers can enjoy a good book over tea and coffee, a dedicated children's area, and wifi throughout.

A packed programme of activities for adults and children

alike is being introduced including 3D printing workshops, family film shows and craft groups, to name but a few.

The building is managed by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and Councillor David Watson (Chair of the Board) said: "People are absolutely delighted with the new community facility – the spaces have been designed to a high specification and offer flexibility for multi-purpose use and I am sure they will be well used by the people of Strathaven."



FUTURISTIC: Daniel Hall, 8, sees what the 3D printer has to offer



It's all GO for Modernisation

“So far 126 new schools have been built throughout the area and children have been reaping the benefits of first class learning facilities.”

**Councillor Katy Loudon,
Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's
Education Resources Committee**



THRILLED: Councillor Katy Loudon and Head Teacher Pamela Bradley with pupils from St Patrick's Primary School

ANOTHER four new schools have opened in South Lanarkshire over the past few weeks as part of the council's school investment programme.

The £850 million Primary Schools Modernisation Programme was launched in 2004 with the ambitious target of replacing or modernising each and every one of the council's estate of primary schools.

Councillor Katy Loudon, Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Education Resources Committee said: "I've had the pleasure of visiting these new schools to see the fantastic learning and teaching environments they provide. It's incredible that we are almost at the completion of the schools modernisation project and there are only another four schools until the target is realised.

"So far 126 new schools have been built throughout the area and children have been reaping the benefits of first class learning facilities.



PROUD: Isla Holman is delighted with the library at the new Crawford Primary School

Councils' Building Services, part of Housing and Technical Resources. It has seven classrooms, a nursery class, general purpose/ICT open area, dining hall, assembly/gym hall and externally has a 3G multi use games area and a fantastic climbing wall.

Attached is a community wing which replaces Strathaven library and the town's Ballgreen Hall.

Head Teacher Pamela Bradley said: "The building has surpassed any expectations we had. It's phenomenal, offering us a variety of flexible space and large bright and airy classrooms. The children have settled in well and it's a real pleasure to teach in. The feedback from all staff has been extremely positive and I know great things are going to happen in our new home."

The new £5.4 million Tinto Primary School in Symington was also designed and built by South Lanarkshire Council's Building Services team. The impressive new structure consists of five classrooms and a combined gym and dining hall, general purpose area and a flexible open area and library.

Head Teacher Alex Stark said: "We have involved the children in all aspects of the new school – they helped to pick the colours and furniture and wall decorations and they also designed our new house shields so they really have taken a sense of ownership of the new school already.

"Their reaction on day one was one of wonder and awe and they've settled in and are learning well in the new classes."

"I have no doubt that the remainder of the schools will be built to the same high standard and we will be the first council in Scotland to have totally transformed its education estate. No mean feat in anyone's eyes and something I am extremely proud to have been a part of."

St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery class in Strathaven opened to pupils on Monday 14 May. The school had been decanted during the build period and were delighted to get back to their own site to a much improved building.

The £11 million school was designed and built by South Lanarkshire

SETTLING IN: Olivia Tweedie at the new Tinto Primary School



the Primary Schools in Programme



HAPPY: Councillor Loudon with some senior pupils jumping for joy at the new Tinto Primary School (above). Ellie Taylor and Rhiannon Burns in the new Crawford building (above top) and Jason Fox outside the new St Patrick's Primary School in Strathaven

Following a decant the pupils and staff of Crawford Primary School were delighted to move in to the new and improved £3.2 million Crawford Primary School. Head Teacher Hazel Orr said: "We are glad to be back in the heart of our community and are just in love with our new school. Every pupil has designed a piece of art made from the slate roof of the old building so they will all go down in history as being the first pupils to be taught in this wonderful building. We have already welcomed our P1s for next year and cannot wait for them to start their educational journeys in this inspirational building."

The refurbished £5.3 million Hallside Primary School in Cambuslang opened to pupils on Thursday 7 June to the great delight of the school community. Head Teacher Gillian Russell said: "We already feel right at home in our new school and I know that we will go from strength in our new building."

The remaining schools to be completed as part of the programme included Underbank Primary School in Crossford, which is due to open before the end of the year. Walston Primary School in Biggar and the Early Learning Unit in Hamilton will open during summer 2019.





Support for local business

HELPING businesses across South Lanarkshire get the support they need is the main focus of the council's business support team. They can help businesses access financial support, as well as giving advice and encouragement. Here the South Lanarkshire View speak to two firms who have benefited from this specialist advice.

A LANARK-BASED company has become the latest to receive a £100,000 business loan through South Lanarkshire Council.

Macadam Asphalt Co Ltd is an independent asphalt production plant located in Scotland's largest granite quarry at Cloburn, Pettinain, near Lanark.

Run by Lanarkshire businessmen Stewart Denny and John Higgins, the company started trading in February 2010, and in that time has produced more than 850,000 tonnes of quality assured asphalt, with a sales value of £55million.

The £100,000 loan – awarded by the council through Business Loans Scotland – will enable the company to purchase an additional asphalt plant, increasing turnover significantly, and creating two new jobs straight away...with more to follow.

This loan has also taken the Business Loans Scotland lending to over £1m to 19 businesses in 11 local authority areas since its inception.

Stewart Denny is full of praise for the support given to the company both by South Lanarkshire Council and Business Loans Scotland.

He said: "On behalf of everyone at Macadam Asphalt I offer huge thanks to the council's planning and economic development team for their support of our company in creating a long-term, sustainable business and local well paid employment for Lanark.

"South Lanarkshire's approach to economic regeneration is one of excellence and in my opinion, should be the standard all local authorities should strive to attain.

"Local business growth leads to local employment, purchases and consequently greater economic recovery. We are now, from a standing start, the largest customer of all our local suppliers. We could not have done that without the consistent support of the council and now Business Loans Scotland."

Business Loans Scotland builds on the previous successful loan funds, the West of Scotland Loan Fund (WSLF), the East of Scotland Investment Fund (ESIF) and the South of Scotland Loan Scheme.

With significant input of funds from councils and the European Regional Development Fund, Business Loans Scotland aims to substantially increase the supply of loan capital to new and existing, small and medium sized businesses across Scotland.

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO BUSINESSES DURING 2017/18

- A total of 1,550 businesses received advice and support from South Lanarkshire Council's Business Support Team
- In the same period, 1,361 jobs were created and/ or safeguarded as a direct result of the team's input
- It is estimated that more than £23m has been generated in extra sales from businesses that have received grant and loan support
- Loans have been given to two businesses totalling £200,000 (see McAdam Asphalt story above)
- Grants have also been given to businesses totalling £374,000

For more information email: business.support@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or call 01698 455 143



SKILLS: Stewart Denny with former apprentice Lewis Bolan who was recruited from the local area and is now a fully qualified Asphalt Laboratory Technician, having completed a two-year college course in just six months. Macadam Asphalt is now seeking a new young local apprentice to fill his shoes

In doing so, this innovative public-private partnership fund can help accelerate the growth of businesses in Scotland, complementing other private and public sector forms of funding.

Councillor John Anderson, Chair of Community and Enterprise Resources, added: "Our aim, through our partnership with Business Loans Scotland, is to make sure that good, commercially viable proposals don't fail through a lack of access to finance.

"We also want to encourage and support the creation, development and growth of local business, boosting their potential for expansion of trade both within and outwith Scotland.

"I am delighted that we have been able to support Macadam Asphalt, already a significant employer making substantial contributions to the rural economy, in taking its business to the next level. Not only does it cement and strengthen its position locally, it sets up further employment opportunities and futureproofs operations on a national and international scale."

The Scottish Government is the Managing Authority for the European Structural Funds 2014-20 Programme. For further information visit the Scottish Government website or follow @scotgovESIF

FUNDING from South Lanarkshire Council has helped a specialist car restoration company on the road to success.

Clydesdale Classic Cars moved to new premises in East Kilbride in November 2016 and since then the workforce has tripled from four people to 13 with a fourteenth member of the team set to be added shortly.

That growth has been driven by the company's outstanding attention to detail and customer service with grants from the council supporting investment in new workshop equipment to ensure the larger workforce had the right tools for the job.

Owner David Mutch said: "I started this business in my front garden in Douglas and it has always been driven by my love of classic cars.

"As the business grew we moved to Hamilton with four of us on the team, our subsequent move to much larger premises in East Kilbride gave us room for the significant expansion over the last year to 18 months and the grant from the council meant I could invest in equipment to support those new jobs."

The company will take on the restoration of any make or model of classic



ROAD TO SUCCESS: Councillor John Anderson with Clydesdale Classic Cars owner David Mutch

car. Vehicles currently in the workshop range from a Ferrari supercar to a vintage mini, but dealing with such a diversity of design and engineering requires a specialist set of skills.

The recent growth of Clydesdale Classic Cars has allowed David to create an apprenticeship opportunity and take on a young person to learn the skills of the trade, to recruit an army veteran to offer him a new career outside the forces and to add several older people to the line up.

David said: "A lot of companies would not consider offering a job to someone in their late 50s but I have taken on a few guys in that age bracket. It is not just technical skills I have recruited them for it is also the life experience and passion for the work that they can share with the younger ones."

Chair of South Lanarkshire Council Community and Enterprise Resources Councillor John Anderson said: "Our Business Support team are always willing to talk to local businesses from sole traders to large companies to see how we can help them create and support opportunities in our community.

"The grants we were able to offer Clydesdale Classic Cars have directly supported the creation of 10 new jobs and through the additional work the company can now take on that money has helped create opportunities for a whole range of other local businesses from specialist upholsterers and spray painters to parts suppliers and delivery drivers."

The grants were arranged by the council's Business Support Service with the company receiving funding totalling £13,622 in 2015 and 2017 that supported investment in additional equipment during key periods in its growth.



DUTIES: Provost Ian McAllan takes on many roles in the line of his official duties including hosting a civic reception for the Scottish Community Drama Association One Act Play Festival in East Kilbride (above) and just some of the events he has attended this year (right)



WHAT A YEAR!

THE PROVOST may stand outside the day-to-day politics of local government but it is almost certainly one of the busiest appointments to be taken up by an elected member.

Community life in South Lanarkshire does not run to office hours and as a result neither do the duties of the Provost. The briefest of glances at the office diary proves official engagements do not conform to a Monday to Friday, 9-5 working week.

Provost Ian McAllan was still a newly elected councillor serving his first term in office when he accepted the honour of being chosen as Provost in May 2017, he said: "I knew of the important civic role the Provost plays but I have to admit this year has been a bit of an eye-opener as to just how much work it entails, however I have thoroughly enjoyed

"The duties of a Provost are nothing if not varied...it is an honour and a privilege to attend all the events."

undertaking all my official duties and I am deeply honoured to continue serving the people of South Lanarkshire as Provost.

"The duties of a Provost are nothing if not varied and I can find myself going from a deeply serious and moving civic event such as Workers' Memorial Day or a Remembrance ceremony and the next appointment might be a Diamond Wedding Anniversary or 100th birthday celebration.

"There has been a plethora of special events over the year including The Queen's Baton coming to South Lanarkshire ahead of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, a reception for the RAF Centenary, the first presentation of the Elizabeth Cross medal to a local family and, as one of my first the 'Kirkin' of the Council following the election.

"Then there are the many joyous community celebrations I get to be a part of: gala days, award ceremonies, musical events and historic anniversaries such as Blantyre Parish Church's 450th and the 150th for both the Larkhall and Bothwell Bowling Clubs.

"It's difficult to pick out events that I would describe as 'highlights' of the year as they all have their own significance to those taking part, whether it be a Christmas Light Switch

On with thousands of people or a small gathering of close friends for a 100th birthday. However, I will say that as Provost it is an honour and a privilege to attend them all."

Representing, as it does, the civic face of South Lanarkshire performing his duties requires Provost McAllan to maintain a degree of dignity and grace. However, he has also brought a very personal touch and, when appropriate, a sense of fun to the role.

During the 2017 Hamilton Christmas Light Switch on Provost McAllan joined Irish pop act B*witched on the stage as they led the crowd in a sing-along in the countdown to the big switch on.

For his official Christmas card rather than a formally posed official portrait the Provost chose a more relaxed picture taken at Cathkin Community Nursery's Nativity show.

Prior to becoming a councillor, Provost McAllan had a career as a police officer serving in a variety of roles across the West of Scotland. He lives with his wife in Biggar and has three daughters.

Provost McAllan is also supported by Depute Provost Collette Stevenson.

Anyone wishing to have their celebration or event attended by the Provost should contact the Provost's office directly by phone on 01698 454910 or email: joan.mclean@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

You can follow the Provost on Twitter [@SLCProvost](https://twitter.com/SLCProvost).



History of the Office of Provost

HISTORICALLY the 'Provost' was the chief magistrate or convener of a Scottish burgh council - the equivalent of a mayor in other parts of the English-speaking world.

After the re-organisation of local government in Scotland in 1975, the title of Lord Provost was reserved to Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow, while other district councils could choose the title to be used by the convener.

In South Lanarkshire the Provost chairs meetings of the full council, whilst holding a wider role as civic leader and ambassador for the area.

The Provost receives visitors to South Lanarkshire and represents the council and the people of South Lanarkshire at all kinds of occasions.

The Provost also regularly visits residents celebrating 100th birthday and Diamond Weddings and works closely with voluntary and community groups, hosting various events and also plays a key role in ceremonies such as Remembrance Day.

In May 2017 South Lanarkshire Council appointed Councillor Ian McAllan as Provost and Councillor Collette Stevenson as Depute Provost.



ST CHARLES LIFT TROPHY IN MEMORY OF LISBON LION

UP FOR THE CUP: Bobby's widow Kathleen and their son Bobby Jnr with the trophy (main pic); a young Bobby Murdoch with the cup circa 1953 (right) and Kathleen presents the trophy to St Charles Primary School (bottom)



A CENTURY-OLD school football tournament has been resurrected in memory of a Lisbon Lion.

The Bobby Murdoch Primary Schools Memorial Cup is picking up where the Burgh Cup – first played for in 1910 – left off when it was last staged in the mid 1970s.

With the event only open to schools in Rutherglen and Cambuslang, the inaugural Bobby Murdoch competition stays true to that history and celebrates the life of a local football legend, 17 years after his death.

Fifteen teams, from nine schools, competed for the new cup on Tuesday,

May 22, with St Charles' PS, the victors, runners-up St Mark's PS and 'stand out player' Chris Neeson, of St Charles' being presented with their trophy by Bobby's widow, Kathleen, and eldest son, also Bobby.

Amongst the teams taking part were St Columbkille's PS where Bobby himself first lifted the Burgh Cup with his schoolmates in 1953.

By 1967 the gifted midfielder, who made more than 500 appearances for Celtic, was a key part of the first British team ever to lift the European cup.

Councillor David Watson, Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure and

Culture, who are behind the revival of the tournament, hopes that the young players of 2018 will take inspiration from that achievement.

He added: "Rutherglen and St Columbkille's Primary helped make Bobby the man he was, and memories of him as a player, but also as the boy who grew up alongside them, are what Ruglonians hold so dear, and why they hold him in such respect.

"It makes perfect sense that a tournament which is designed to nurture and encourage grass roots football in the area should be held in his honour.

"He was one of the greatest of his age, in fact of any age, and more than half a century on from that famous victory, we are proud to remember him still as one of our own.

"Well done to all of the young footballers who have taken part here in what is the first of many successful tournaments to come. And, our thanks go to Kathleen and Bobby for making it extra special by agreeing to present the cup to our worthy winners."

Bobby Murdoch Jr says the family is honoured to be a part of the tournament.

He added: "Our dad is rightly remembered as part of a legendary team who will live on in hearts and minds for a long time to come.

"But his roots are right here in Rutherglen, this is where he honed his skills in the playground as a boy, and the winning of the Burgh Cup in his school days meant as much to him then as lifting that iconic silverware in 1967.

"We are all genuinely delighted that the tournament has been brought back as the Bobby Murdoch Primary Schools Memorial Cup, nurturing and showing off the skills of kids across Rutherglen and Cambuslang."



SHOPS URGED TO 'CHALLENGE 25' ON SALES OF E-CIGS

RETAILERS in South Lanarkshire are being reminded that the sale of e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18 is against the law.

The advice comes from the council's Consumer and Trading Standards team, 12 months on from the introduction of the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) Scotland Act 2016, which changed the legislation on the sale of nicotine vapour products (NVPs), bringing them into line with rules for the sale of tobacco.

And it comes in the wake of a series of 'test purchase' visits in which more than half of young volunteers failed to be challenged or asked for ID, when trying to buy NVPs.

As of April last year, the new legislation introduced a raft of measures which retailers large and small must follow, or risk committing an offence.

Councillor John Anderson, Chair of Community and Enterprise Resources, said: "In the main, the response from retailers has been overwhelmingly positive and we are keen to work in partnership with them all to ensure co-operation across the board.

"However, the results of our recent test purchase exercise are disappointing and we are planning follow up visits to those premises to ensure that traders have now understood and have implemented the 'Challenge 25' policy."

Significant penalties are in place for those who fail to comply with the new legislation ranging from a fixed penalty fine of £200 and ban on the sale of products, to a £20,000 fine, six month prison sentence or both.

Council creates new food development role

SOUTH Lanarkshire Council has further underlined its plan to combat food poverty.

At a meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources committee, members agreed to the recruitment of a new policy officer for Food Development.

Alongside pilots, being undertaken by Education Resources, of school breakfast and summer holiday lunch clubs, this post has been created to ensure that food initiatives are delivered in a comprehensive way, and co-ordinated with the council's partners.

Amongst a number of initiatives proposed, the new officer will oversee:

- Development of a community food plan and council food forum
- Enhancement and support of both the council's allotment strategy and food strategy
- Investigation of a council food procurement partnership, allowing the sourcing of more locally produced food from local communities

Councillor John Anderson, Chair of the committee, told colleagues: "Food is essential to our health and survival; it is at the heart of our economy, shapes our environment and helps form our cultural and social lives.

"Unfortunately, community food initiatives across Scotland are increasingly responding to demand from people experiencing the most severe effects of food poverty.

"However, balancing that need for short-term food provision with creating sustainable change for people experiencing food poverty is a rising challenge across Scotland.

"The council has been active on food issues including improving hygiene standards in restaurants, implementing a new food waste collection service to recycle food waste and running healthy eating and nutrition programmes.

"And, the creation of this post is a further demonstration of our commitment to tackling food poverty in South Lanarkshire to promote the good health of all our residents, and to ensure that the way we produce, consume and distribute our food has minimal negative impacts on the environment.

"Nonetheless these ambitions cannot be delivered by the council alone and our further aim for this new position is that it provides a link to working more closely with partners such as the Scottish Government, NHS and third sector organisations."

