

NEWSLETTER

Distributed free to all Langlee households March 2009
 Published by the Langlee Residents Association, 20 Larch Grove, Galashiels, TD1 2LB Tel: 01896 753296

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU - MATTERS TO US

WELCOME!

Hello everyone - welcome to the very first edition of the Langlee Residents Association Newsletter, which will be delivered to every household in Langlee on a regular basis.

Langlee Residents Association was re-formed in September 2008, so that we could work together for the good of the community. Does that sound pious and do-gooding? I don't mean it to, but I can't find a better way of describing the great opportunity we have in Langlee to make it a great place to live.

The only thing is, just a few of us can't do it - we need input from as many residents as possible. We have great plans (more about that later) but we need people to help us put those plans into place - for our kids and our grandchildren and for us.

We already have the support of some great people - amongst others, local councillors Fiona Lackenby and John Mitchell, our new community policeman Jim Watters, the Community Wardens and MSP Jeremy Purvis - what a great start! What we need now is you - our neighbours, will you join us?

The meetings are short, usually not longer than an hour and a half, are centrally based at the local primary school and are already starting to prove what can be done. Well, enough from me, this newsletter is for you and about you. I hope to meet you very soon.

Judith Cleghorn, Chair, Langlee Residents Association.

GREAT NEWS FROM SBC!

We were delighted to learn that, following a walk-round of Langlee with David Brown, Scottish Borders Council Area Network Manager (Eildon & Tweeddale), to look at some of the repairs needed to pathways, it was decided to allocate upwards of £30,000 to start remedial work.

Some of the slab paths in the Beech Avenue and Larch Grove area are already being removed and replaced by tarmac.

Many thanks to Scottish Borders Council, who obviously appreciate that we need a great deal of work done, this is a great start!

WTO FOOTBALL FUN DAY

Waverley Tenants Organisation will be holding a Football Fun Day in Beech Avenue on Saturday 4th April 2009, kick off at 10:00am.

They will also be officially opening the WTO Langlee office in Beech Avenue.

The Community Gardens in the Beech Avenue area will be revamped for the season in the next couple of weeks – keep your eye on them, they cheer up the whole area!

Look out for more information, or see the WTO website: www.waverleytenants.org.uk

The Roundabout Cafe
 (01896 754836)
bringing the Langlee community together
 Langlee Community Centre
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
 10.00am – 2.00pm
Come and see for yourself!

LANGLEE COMMUNITY PROJECT

On 17th December 2008, The Border Telegraph published an article about Langlee, including a photograph of a boarded-up house.

It is of great concern that this photo is an example of how the area is viewed by others - a fairly downtrodden area, not a nice place to live.

Admittedly it could be improved and this is where the Langlee Community Project comes in. It has been suggested that the Langlee Residents Association should look at the whole of Langlee, decide as a community what we would like to see happen to improve the area, and how we can get funding for the work.

It is also suggested that the LRA becomes a registered charity - this would open many more funding doors for us.

This is a really ambitious idea, totally new for Langlee, but we are convinced it can be done.

However, we need you, the residents of Langlee, to support us - would you like to see the area looking better, make it a better place to live for our children? Would you like to see decent playparks, smooth and safe pavements, clean litter-free streets?

This is *your* opportunity to be part of this exciting project - come along to the next LRA meeting at Langlee Primary School on **Wednesday 11th March at 7pm**. Come and have a say in Langlee's future!

LANGLEE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION email:
langlee.residents@googlemail.com

LANGLEE YOUTH CLUBS NEWS

- Midi Youth Club: Monday, 6.30 - 8.30pm (P7 - S1)
- Senior Youth Club: Tuesday, 7 - 9pm (S2 upwards)
- Junior Youth Club: Wednesday, 6 - 8pm (P3 - P6)
- Roundabout Youth Group: Thursday, 5.30 - 9.30pm (11 - 18 years)
- Roundabout Youth Group: Friday, 6.30 - 10.30pm (11 - 18 Years)

Whilst the youth clubs are very busy, and the Roundabout Youth Group is just starting up, we are always in need of volunteers to help out in these sessions. Enthusiasm and an ability to work with young people is all you need as training is available for all volunteers.

Some of the ideas we have for the Roundabout is an Internet Radio Station for Langlee as well as an e-newspaper. Whole community events like quiz nights, restaurant nights and film nights are also on the cards for these groups, which will be planned and hosted by the young people themselves.

The Seniors will have a residential this summer to plan for an international exchange in 2010, and are at present looking at fund raising ideas.

The Midi Youth Club went to the Panto before Christmas, and are leading the field in their healthy tuck shop approach and have some great sessions of games and sports in the hall and outside (weather permitting).

The Junior Youth Club is very busy and lively with the young people attending involved in arts and crafts, games in the hall and pool. They usually have a major trip away during the summer.

Come along, meet new friends and have fun! You'll be very welcome.

***Note:** *Except for Roundabout Groups the Youth Clubs run the same as the school terms and are closed during school holidays. But there will be summer activities available during school (summer) holiday period.*

Please call Norrie Tait (Community Learning and Development Worker) on 01896 755110 for further youth club information.

THE ROUNDABOUT CAFE

We are a local café, next to Langlee Community Centre, open to the public and providing excellent home cooked food at very competitive prices. We are also a training facility providing work experience for young people in a real working environment.



Come and enjoy a light lunch in bright surroundings, open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 10am - 2pm. Also available for small social events or meetings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Enquiries/bookings 01896 754836.

GRASS CUTTING

The issue of lack of grass cutting in six areas in lower Langlee was raised at the last LRA meeting. Following this meeting John Mitchell and Judith Cleghorn met on site with Gordon Giffether of Waverley Housing, who confirmed that Waverley own these pieces of land, but there was some controversy over who was liable to pay for the grass to be cut. He advised us that he would investigate and would hopefully come back with a solution in the near future. The LRA will monitor this issue until it is settled but it will likely take some time to resolve as it has been a problem elsewhere for many years.

LANGLEE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 11th MARCH AT 7PM
IN LANGLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE HEALTHY LIVING NETWORK (HLN)

The HLN provides a range of Health Improvement Programmes in response to local need in the topic areas of; Food and Health, Physical Activity, Parenting and Emotional Wellbeing. The new HLN Project Worker for Langlee is Carly Unwin. She's based in the Community Centre but has been involved in various activities and events in Langlee already and will continue to do so.

We are currently creating an action plan for the coming months. A steering group has been created and due to have it's first meeting in March to create this plan using a needs assessment for the area. Carly has plans to work closely with Langlee Primary school and the parents of the children to deliver a range of activities from cookery skills to parent and child exercise classes.

Although it's early days there are a few initiatives up and running and in the planning stages, such as:

- A budget meal planner for a family of four to live on less than £2 per person, per day
- Cookery Skills at Langlee Primary School
- Walk Leader training at Langlee Primary School
- Weaning Group at the Community Centre
- Aerobics on a Friday at Langlee Primary School
- Providing fruit for the Breakfast Club at Langlee Primary School
- Plans for a Community Gym at the Community Centre
- Plans for a Feel-Good Campaign – which includes a weight-loss & nutrition club, exercise classes, and so much more
- Plans for an alternative exercise taster event at Langlee Primary School
- *Health Issues in the Community training*, short courses, tasters or a full course, accredited by Edinburgh University - all are great additions to your CV. Short courses range from Ethnic Issues to Physical Activity within the context of health.

As you can see there's a lot going on in your area in terms of health improvement opportunities. If you require any further information about any of the items mentioned above, wish to make a health activity request or would like to talk to Carly about how the Healthy Living Network can help you, please contact her on 01896 755110 or 07833 049510.

COUNCILLOR FIONA LACKENBY SAYS . . .

Since the elections in 2007, Langlee is no longer split with Councillors representing either side of the Melrose Road. The community is moving forward and forging its own unique identity. This can be seen most clearly in the re-formation of the Langlee Residents Association. Its membership is open to anyone living in Langlee, whether owner or tenant, and although it hasn't been back for very long, it is already achieving success.

One of the first issues raised with the Association was about inconsiderate cycling on the Black Path. This flagged up the issue that the school didn't do cycle training. Thanks to local volunteers coming forward, Langlee Primary School will be doing cycle training this summer – helping to address safety issues for our children.

There has also been a lot of work done by the Council to look at the infrastructure – the paths, steps and walls – in Upper Langlee. This has been a mammoth task and a master plan is being drawn up to address the many issues identified. LRA is at the forefront of this and is working with the Council to bring the social housing providers, Waverley and SBHA, on board 'to do their bit too'. Don't be mistaken, the sums of money involved are huge and the work will not happen overnight. BUT, without organisations like LRA, the job of pushing through schemes like these is much harder. The existence of LRA shows those who control the budgets and make the final decisions that you **DO** care about the community you live in.

However, don't think that now the master plan is in place there is nothing more to do. The Association still needs **YOU** and your **IDEAS** and **AMBITIONS** for Langlee – on both sides of the road.

Before Christmas, The Border Telegraph published an article that portrayed Langlee as a place with no hope or future. That is *not* the Langlee I have seen and know. Yes there are problems, but they are *not* impossible. Come along to the meetings, or get in touch and let us know what **YOU** want. This is **YOUR** community – own it!

Councillor Fiona Lackenby,
Tel: 01835 830428, email: flackenby@scotborders.gov.uk

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Are you a local artist?

Do you paint, make cards, etc?

Interested in displaying your work
at the Roundabout Cafe?

Call 01896 754836

FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN MITCHELL

My next Councillor's surgery will be on Friday 3rd April from 6 - 7 pm in the Langlee Community Centre, and it would be helpful if constituents phone 01750 722422 beforehand for an appointment.

Garden waste uplift restarts in the week commencing 30th March.

You will all be as delighted as I am that the Council has started resurfacing some paths in Beech Avenue, and is replacing outdated bus shelters in the Langlee area.

Langlee Carnival will be on 12th September, please put it in your diary now!

jmitchell@scotborders.gov.uk