



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4, JANUARY 2005

WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF LENNOXTOWN

All change at the top Tom takes over

THE top job within the Lennoxtown Initiative has been filled by a senior figure within the NHS in Greater Glasgow.

Tom Campbell, 45, is already behind his new desk and will lead the Initiative as Chief Executive on the major challenges over the next two years.

Crucially he'll be the lynchpin brokering the final details of the long-awaited cash windfall from the sale of the Lennox Castle site for housing.

Exciting

Tom comes aboard following the departure of Moira Cruickshank who spent a year in charge as Operations Director. He had been spending two days a week in Lennoxtown keeping the organisation running until his full time appointment was secured.

And he said this week: "I am absolutely delighted

to take charge at such an exciting stage. Foundations have been laid over the last three years and now we are about to see the infrastructure fall into place.

"I would single out our business development project at Station Road which will bring in a £2 million investment and is almost ready to start. The Initiative itself was formed because of job losses at the hospital, so job creation is our key reason for being here."

Tom lives in Renfrewshire with his wife and two teenage daughters and will retain responsibility for certain key NHS property projects. He has stood down from his role as Director of Kirkintilloch's Initiative to take on the Lennoxtown post.

He said: "It is time for the village to look to the future - welcoming new people, new businesses, better facilities and co-



Tom Campbell

ordinated services. I am excited at the prospect of what's ahead"

For the past twelve years Tom has worked with Greater Glasgow Primary Care NHS Trust, latterly as Head of Property Management. He was the property expert involved in negotiating the agreement between the NHS and East Dunbartonshire Council that led to the creation of both Kirkintilloch and Lennoxtown Initiative.

Potential

Moira Cruickshank, who had been on a secondment, has returned to Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire as a senior executive involved in the Clydebank Rebuilt project.

Moira told the

Newsletter: "I really liked the nature of the work in the village and of course I wish the area all the best. "There is loads of potential and that potential can be reached. There is only a small team working hard to deliver and things take time to put in place. "My parting message would be for the community to be patient and supportive. It is the easier option to look for the negatives all the time . . . please look for the positives."

Paying tribute to her, Initiative Chairman Ian Young said: "Moira worked very hard for our village and her contribution will prove to be a lasting legacy. She deserves the thanks of everyone who is trying to pull our area out of the doldrums."



Jig for joy

BOBBLE-hatted walking hero Tom Weir clasps the hands of his wife Rhona for an impromptu reel at the age of 90. To find out why he was the centre of attention turn inside to page 3.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

WITHIN the next 12 months the physical evidence of some of the Initiative's deliberations will be in place for all to see. I am particularly excited about the potential development of office space and start-up workshop units on part of the old nail works site.

This new work environment will not only create jobs, but will be a symbol of new life being breathed into the village. Everyone hopes it will become not just a good place for existing businesses to relocate, but a fine environment for completely new companies to flourish.

What has become clear recently is the need to focus on future leisure provision. What facilities do you want to see? A five-a-side football facility? Indoor tennis court or badminton? New changing area? Golf range or mountain bike tracks? We want you to tell us and indeed we will be organising a formal consultation next year. In the interim you can send your views to The Newsletter some of which will be published in the next issue.

At this crucial stage in the Initiative's future, I am delighted to welcome Tom Campbell as our first Chief Executive. It was decided the old role of Operations Director had



changed and that enhancement to an executive post was necessary. Tom, for example, will be the principal negotiator with our partner agencies in delivering our projects on the ground. His background in property development and management will help ensure these projects are completed without a hitch.

The Board also sees Tom's appointment as a strengthening of our good links with the Greater

Glasgow Primary Care NHS Trust. It is also a significant indicator on how important the NHS sees the future common good of the people of Lennoxtown.

Great news also reached me from the recent Construction Day staged by the Initiative.

You never know what to expect when you put on an event like this. A lot of work goes into it without any guarantee of success . . . or that significant numbers will even walk through the door. That's why it should give us all a boost to see that two young men have walked into apprenticeships as a direct result. Not just any old apprenticeships but jobs learning a valued craft with the revered Scottish building company Mactaggart & Mickel.

We had a Health Care Open Day in October but there will be plenty of opportunity to organise new sectors of interest next year. Do let us know your area of interest and we'll try and get it on the agenda.

IAN YOUNG

Margaret joins the team

A NEW face is greeting visitors at the reception of the Lennoxtown Initiative.

Margaret McGregor has now taken up the post of Administration and Finance Officer.

This is a new role, reflecting the increasing financial aspects of our operation.

Margaret, from Cumbernauld, previously worked for the Inland Revenue in the town.

She said: "So far I have



Dial M for Margaret.

found it very busy and challenging, but I have already built up good knowledge of the village

and the local residents. I have a long background in general administration and finance so I hope I can be a strong asset."

Who's who

Your Lennoxtown Initiative Board members are: **Chairman** Ian Young, **Vice Chairman** Tom Lenaghan, **Secretary** Jim Gilmour, Cllr John Dempsey, Derek Miller, Alex Wingate, Anne Unsworth, Kathy Haswell, Alan Sim, Allan McQuade and Ian Reid.

Sneaky kids alert

Police have been made aware of child tricksters trying to con villagers out of money on their doorsteps.

The youngsters have in fact been claiming to be acting on behalf of the Lennoxtown Initiative and asking for donations to help buy equipment.

There have been at least

two reported incidents, and a spokesman for Strathclyde Police said: "I think the children are perhaps taking civic pride a bit too far. If there is a recurrence of this then let us know."

The Lennoxtown Initiative does not canvass doorsteps asking for money . . . not now, not ever!

Weir the walking people

THE much-loved boyhood hike of hillwalking legend Tom Weir has been officially christened by the great man himself.

It is hoped fans of Tom, now 90, will make pilgrimage to the new Tom Weir's Way and help raise the tourist spend in the area.

Zander Coll and his team at Fells View Training constructed a cairn in honour of Tom in the heart of Clachan of Campsie. Way-markers and stiles have been put in place for the route which rises three miles up Campsie Glen from the Clachan before descending on the opposite bank of the Kirk Burn.

Stone from the Kirk Burn itself has been used for the cairn which sits proudly next to the bus turning area to give maximum exposure. Tom, who is now 90 and lives in Gartocharn, is enjoying a renaissance thanks to re-runs of the cult 1970's



Reely fantastic launch caught on camera.

Scottish Television series Weir's Way.

Mark Brand, an outdoor access specialist with East Dunbartonshire Council, said: "This is the favourite route of his youth - it was and remains very close to his heart. As a boy in the 1930's he used to jump on a tram in Glasgow and get the bus from Bishopbriggs to the Clachan. "We now want more people to be aware of it . . . this is real Highland scenery that's now within 20 minutes of Glasgow."

EDC worked on the project with the Strathkelvin Ramblers and it was made possible after veteran farmer John Norman allowed access over his land at Knowehead. Rather fittingly John, 84, was living at the family farm when Tom first started his walks at Campsie Glen.

The cairn ceremony marked the start of the Festival of Walking staged over two days on various local routes including The Lennoxtown Loop.

As well as building the cairn and marking out Tom Weir's Way, Fells View Training is beginning the spadework for a vast vegetable garden within Schoenstatt Christian retreat. The good news is that there are still training places available to local jobless who want a thorough grounding in horticulture lasting up to 18 months.

**Contact Zander Coll
0771 5506 748.**



The Cairn was built by local hands in local stone.

Extra time for jobs help

OVERCOMING that final little hurdle into work is what the Action Team for Jobs is all about.

And the good news is that a six month pilot in Lennoxtown has been extended until March.

Some 50 people in the area have already benefited . . . from being able to buy a new suit for an interview or being given a travel pass.

Margaret Wilson, the Business Manager at Kirkintilloch JobCentre said: "People don't seem to realise you have to register in advance for this assistance and we don't want anyone to miss out. "We were delighted we were able to get the scheme extended as it has been making all the difference and is not available in most areas. You do not even need to be registered unemployed to be considered for help."

The range of assistance also includes funding for initial childcare costs and advance payment to counteract the lying time element in a new job.

Margaret added: "We realise it is the little things that can help people overcome that final hurdle into a new job."

The scheme has been given the full backing of the Lennoxtown Initiative, Scottish Enterprise

Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire Council, Careers Scotland, Joblink and JobCentre.

Find out more on the first and third Wednesday of every month when the Action Team for Jobs are based within Lennoxtown Initiative's HQ (10am-noon). Or call 0141 800 6200.

OPEN DOOR TO THE BUILDING TRADE

TWO young people are on the road to a building career after attending the Lennoxtown Construction Day.

The local youths who attended the event in June have now been hired on apprenticeships by lead developer Mactaggart and Mickel.

Campbell Stewart, Development Officer of the Dunbartonshire Construction Alliance, said: "The event was well attended, chiefly by younger people looking to

get into the industry. We are delighted two boys who made the effort to come along have actually got jobs as a direct result. It has made it worthwhile for us all."

The Lennoxtown Initiative organised the open day at the Campsie Memorial Hall and attracted nearly 50 people from the area.

Mactaggart and Mickel were on hand on the day and were joined by CITB and a number of job agencies and training providers.

The building trade day was part of a series of themed events and followed on from the Learning Open Day involving colleges and local public agencies last October.

Ultimately the open days are part of the campaign to help local people into employment opportunities created by the multi-million pound redevelopment of the Lennox Castle hospital site.



Young Michael Rocks, eight, won our building site safety poster competition. Michael, a pupil at St Machan's, won a meal for his family and is pictured with the Initiative's Skills and Learning Manager Karen Heath.



Taking time out for the camera.



The Mactaggart and Mickel stand was the centre of attention.



Experienced exhibitors had time to talk over the detail.

The eight key objectives of the Lennoxtown Initiative

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| <p>1: To develop people's awareness of, access to and skills for work</p> <p>2: To overcome barriers to individual inclusion</p> <p>3: To sustain and grow the local employer base</p> | <p>4: To enhance the capacities of community groups and enterprises</p> <p>5: To market the village's attractions</p> <p>6: To mobilise the engagement of the community</p> | <p>7: To revitalise the physical fabric of the village</p> <p>8: To integrate service delivery to Lennoxtown</p> |
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Pulses race for village heart

A NEW civic heart is to beat within the heart of the village.

In the New Year the first proposals will be aired before the community to provoke a debate on the building of an all-in-one centre for care.

Costing a little over £1 million, it will be the most significant new building in Lennoxton in modern times.

And Tom Campbell, chief executive of the Lennoxton Initiative, said: "The village

really does need a new focus and I believe the integrated care centre will become that civic heart we are lacking at the moment."

The new building will become home to a health centre, community centre, a police office, housing and social work departments and a new library.

It is likely to be built over more than one floor but as yet there are no decisions on where it will be situated or what it will look like.

Tom added: "As yet there have been no locations singled out, though a Main Street site is likely. All these agencies are really joining together rather than being isolated alone which can only be a good thing.

"At some point in 2005 we will hold an event to involve the community in the way forward. It will cost over £1 million and is a terrific investment in the future."

A group of local ladies can now help interpret for the deaf after learning a British sign language course over the past six months.

Based within Lennoxton Initiative's offices, it was run by tutor John McDade who is deaf. "I think that made it better for us all to learn," said Melanie Baker. "John had to sign and write things down. In addition John is a very funny man which made the learning all the more enjoyable."

The group in the picture, which includes Melanie sitting in front of John, are signing the word 'deaf.'

Melanie added: "I thought sign language is something I should learn, a skill that may come in handy. I am able to sign a few hundred words."

Local ladies learning included Sue Mitchell, Ruth Craig and Evelyn Cairney.

The course was so successful that it is likely another will start in the coming months.

Check with the Initiative office for details.

See the signs



The ladies spell it out for John

Time to give up

VILLAGE volunteering placements are available now across a wide range of duties.

The publicly funded East Dunbartonshire Volunteer

Centre has a database of more than 300 opportunities across the district, some of them right here in Lennoxton.

It could be as varied as looking after a puppy for a year,

staffing a coffee club for the elderly or taking your turn on the rota of a charity shop. If you have free time to spare call 0141 578 6680 and they will act as matchmaker.

NO MORE NASTY NEIGHBOURS

CHANCES are you may have already spotted the smartly dressed men and women in blue uniform strolling past your window.

It is new territory for Abby, John and their supervisor Frank and the beginning of a new era for Lennoxtown.

For the first time the streets are being patrolled by Community Support Officers - the champions of a peaceful and pleasant life for residents.

They will be pounding the beat here for the next two years as part of a Scottish Executive pilot and right now are concentrating on becoming known and trusted faces.



Pavement power - the East Dunbartonshire officers check out the village

Jim Neil, the area's Community Safety Coordinator, said: "They will get involved in a very practical way and be the eyes and ears of all the public agencies such as the police, council, fire brigade and volunteer groups. "If anyone in Lennoxtown has ongoing problems on their doorstep then the

Community Support Officers want to know. They are out there to reassure the public and to rebuild confidence. In the past organisations have worked in isolation dealing with anti-social behaviour problems such as vandalism and under age drinking. Now the norm will be to share things and work

in constant partnership. In areas where community officers have been working for some time the success has been resounding, particularly for the elderly people."

Abby and John are Lennoxtown's dedicated team and will be on foot in shift patterns stretching from a Tuesday to a Saturday until 10pm. They are in direct radio control with their HQ (there are three other pilot areas within East Dunbartonshire) and are happy to be approached during their rounds.

Alternatively a 24 hour hotline for help is now operational - 0800 0131209.

LOOKING FORWARD TO WORK

IT'S called **Get Ready for Work** - and is doing exactly what it says on the tin.

No less than 14 of the first 30 teenagers through the doors of the scheme this year are now in careers.

And it's a strong record for Forward Training, the agency which began operations last September within the Lennoxtown Initiative's HQ.

In a summer of success

two girls Marie McReynolds and Clair Sinclair are now attending Cumbernauld College after securing full time posts with the YMCA in Lenzie and Torrance.

The boys did just as well - Thomas Allan joined B&Q, Lewis Clark checked in at ASDA.

And Paul Kemmitt secured a placement at a Hamilton civil engineering company.

Get Ready for Work provides tips and skills in

a five-day-a-week learning environment for jobless 16-18 year olds on key matters such as letter and C.V. writing, interview preparation and techniques.

To check availability for a place on the course call Careers Scotland in Kirkintilloch 0141 777 2095.

Shop skills

VILLAGE retailers can get half the cost of training (up to a maximum of £3500) paid back to them under a new Business Learning Account launched by Scottish Enterprise. Shopkeepers training could be anything from customer courtesy, IT, accountancy skills or a motivational course. Call 0845 609 6611.

Got a story?

Have you got a good story on what's happening in the village? Or a good idea you want to share with others? Let us know on 01360 312978 and we could feature it in our next edition.

FESTIVE LIGHTS UP LENNOXTOWN

THE village has been lit up like never before this Christmas.

Extra funding meant more sparkle designed to induce that festive feeling descending on Main Street.

Ten new oversize electric installations were hung from lampposts and a powerful projector beams out a Christmas message.

The central focus is again a giant

Christmas tree and decorations in School Lane.

Town Centre Manager Carolanne Orr said: "A lot of work went into planning the big switch on event in early December. We had a disappointment last year when a boy band failed to arrive - but the show went well this year!"

The Christmas lights spectacular is a joint project between East Dunbartonshire Town

Centre Management, East Dunbartonshire Council and the Lennoxtown Initiative.

Carolanne added: "This is another thing to grow civic pride in our shopping centre. I think even the vandals know this as they quite rightly left our display alone last year.

"It is amazing the difference Christmas lights can make. It adds some sparkle to cheer you up on a dark afternoon."

Free help at the Lennoxtown initiative HQ

MONDAYS: Internet and Email, 1pm-3pm.

TUESDAYS: Introductory First Aid, 9.30am-11.30am

Family History, 1pm-3pm

Computers for Beginners Level 2, 7pm-9pm.

WEDNESDAYS: Welfare Rights, 10am-noon.

Action Team for Jobs, 10am-noon (first and third of month).

THURSDAYS: Breast Feeding Support Group, 2pm-3pm.

FRIDAYS: Sign Language Level 2, 12.45pm-2.45pm.

MEET THE BOARD >>> MEET THE BOARD >>>

THIS month's Newsletter focuses on another two prominent members of the Lennoxtown Initiative Board. The features are designed to let you know a little bit more about the people who give their time freely to help the area prosper.



Ian Reid

His realm serves a near one million population and he is in charge of six thousand staff . . . yet **Ian Reid** reserves special time for Lennoxtown.

For the past two years as chief executive of the Primary Care Division of NHS Greater Glasgow, he has led medical services spanning GP surgeries, mental health, community nurses and addiction clinics.

But the 45-year-old father of two young daughters said: "I am proud of the Lennoxtown Initiative and have grown very fond of the village. I am happy to help."

Ian played a critical role in the creation of the Lennox Castle Task Force which aimed to limit the devastating impact of the hospital closure.

He told the Newsletter: "It was out of the Task Force that the Initiative was born, designed to return some of the receipts from the sale of the hospital land.

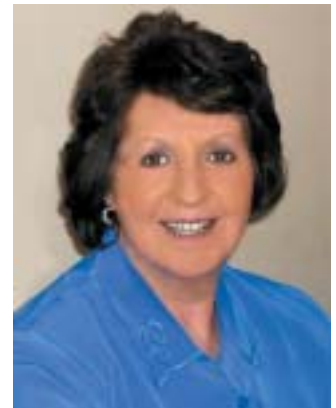
"The traditional way of a hospital closure was to pull out straight away - the NHS is required to make maximum receipts from the sale of land. But we recognised that by

reinvesting we could create additional employment for local people.

"We didn't walk away and have a long term commitment, legally bound by what has become known as the Tripartite Agreement. This commits the NHS to contribute the net receipts from the residential development on the lower site to the Initiative's regeneration proposals and programme." There is no doubt we have not seen any of the sale receipts as quickly as any of us would have wished. But I'd like to think we have made some inroads in the interim."

Kathleen Haswell, 61, joined at the very beginning - continuing her life-long work for and commitment to the community.

Serve the community she has, with a clutch of devoted causes such as the pensioner's social nights, the St Machan's hall committee, being a



Kathleen Haswell

member of the community council, and a playleader at Lennoxtown Playgroup for the past 18 years.

Kathleen and her husband Bruce have a daughter and three sons, one of whom Kenneth plays for Partick Thistle.

Of her continued involvement in the Lennoxtown Initiative, she says: "I am still excited about the long term results. The process is complicated and there are no short cuts to getting it right."

My meals of fortune

IT was eight months ago that Louise Smart tentatively served her first pot of tea and light lunch.

Only now, thousands of customers later, is the 23-year-old former casino croupier able to take stock.

Smarty's Café, prominently positioned in Main Street, has become a real community asset and a great boost to the village retail experience.

And Louise said: "As a croupier I enjoyed playing with other peoples' money. I can tell you, that when it's your own, it's a different story!

"But I am happy to say the business has taken off and I am delighted."

Three jobs have been created with the opening of

the café, which is a seven day a week operation open till 6pm. It seats 16 and has also become a favourite for take-away food.

Louise, who lives in Lennoxton with her parents Di and Alex and elder brother Martin, told the Newsletter why she made the jump into business.

She said: "I had been a chef and a croupier on the Isle of Man and in Glasgow and the desire grew to do something for myself over the past three years.

"Angela Meechan, the former Director of Lennoxton Initiative, then told me that this shop would soon become available. I knew the site was right and I just bided my time.

"Some people had their doubts about what I was planning, but my family got behind me 110%. It is hard work but I am totally dedicated."

Louise received a grant from the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust and help from the Small Business Gateway. She delved



Table for two

back into her knowledge gained during her student years at the Glasgow College of Food Technology as the basis for the Smarty's cuisine.

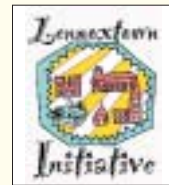
She said: "I enjoy doing specials such as gammon steaks or stovies and we have different home made soup every day. We offer all sorts of filled rolls, breakfasts and snacks to keep our customers happy." But the most popular items on the Smarty's menu are the traditional local delicacy . . . a roll and square sausage and a roll and tattie scone!

If you have the desire to start your own business in the area, then the Lennoxton Initiative office in School Lane is a great starting place to point you in the right direction.



Smarty's has prime central spot

THE NEWSLETTER



This edition of the Newsletter has been delivered to your doorstep by a professional distribution company. It follows delivery problems with the Spring issue. The Winter 2003 edition was successfully delivered by the 1st Campsie Boys Brigade who were not involved with the Spring issue. We are carefully monitoring this delivery so please let us know of any problems on 01360 312978. Remember extra copies are available at our office.

Lennoxton Initiative, 51-53 School Lane, Lennoxton G66 7LX and is delivered to every house and business in the area. The office is open 10am-4pm Monday-Thursday and 10am-1pm on Friday. Tel 01360 312978 Fax 01360 312697 Email contact@lennoxtoninitiative.co.uk The Lennoxton Initiative is supported by Greater Glasgow Primary Care NHS Trust, East Dunbartonshire Council and Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire.



Rooting out your family tree

FAMILY tree expert Jenny Oswald wants to place a health warning on her intriguing subject.

"People get absolutely hooked. They discover things that were never talked about by their families," says Jenny.



Jenny's point of reference.

She is currently nearing the end of the first ever Family History course held in the parish.

Anchored at the Lennoxton Initiative HQ, the nine-week tutorial has also included all day visits to the central registrars in Glasgow to look at family records.

Blanefield-based Jenny has been teaching Family History for eight years and revealed: "Lots of people in Lennoxton are here today because their

ancestors moved to the area to work at the nail factory or Lennox Castle. Eight out of ten can trace back an Irish link.

"The course is all about detective work and I introduce the main sources of information. You can find out so much from birth, marriage and death certificates and from the Census of the day. I encourage people to take their family tree as far back as they can go."

The current course ended in November but depending on demand there is the prospect of a new nine-week block.

Jenny added: "People do find it fascinating to see how their family lived. We can easily find out where they lived, what they did, how they lived and why they moved. This course is really a social and economic history."

James Jack, a learning executive with East Dunbartonshire Council, added: "Villagers asked for a course of this type so we were keen to arrange it. And it is amazing how many local people from a Scottish background can trace roots back to Ireland."