

# The Warbler

March 2018

■ ■ WAT IF?

WOOLFORDS AUCHENGRAY  
& TARBRAX IMPROVEMENT  
FOUNDATION

IMPROVE · PROMOTE · ATTRACT

[www.watif.scot](http://www.watif.scot)

## THANK YOU for Getting Involved!

A huge thank you to everyone who has shared their thoughts, ideas and opinions with us over the last month. Whether you completed a survey, attended the WAT IF? Open Day, or one of our many focus groups, your involvement mattered. Your ideas will now go forward to create WAT IF?'s 5 year Community Action Plan. A big thank you also, to our fantastic team of volunteers who made door to door calls throughout the WAT IF? area to ensure we collected as many survey responses as possible.

It was brilliant to hear your opinions and ideas. You talked about the many issues that were important to you including; pathways, sheltered accommodation for seniors, broadband, community transport and, of course, the condition of local roads. You were also interested in the development of a community depot, improved sporting facilities, a heritage centre and after school care. These will drive WAT IF?'s future activities and ensure that the community benefit funds we receive are spent where they are most needed.

The information gathered in recent weeks will now be collated and analysed. Look out for updates in future issues of The Warbler, online at [www.watif.scot](http://www.watif.scot) or on the WAT IF? Facebook page. Printed copies of the new Community Action Plan will be available from 25th April.

If you'd like to find out more about the new Community Action Plan and meet the WAT IF? team please come along to the WAT IF? Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th April, 7pm at Tarbrax Village Hall. This is a public meeting and everyone is warmly welcomed.

*Becky McCauley, Development Manager*



Community Action Plan  
2018 - 2023



WAT IF? Team



Images of WAT IF? Open Day

# Easter Holiday Club

Last year we provided three holiday clubs for the children in our area and we thought that they were so successful that we are going to do so again! The Easter Holiday break is getting ever closer and we are excited about the plans that we have for the kids over that period.

The holiday club will offer fun, active, educational, and creative opportunities for the wee-ones. This will also give them the opportunity to meet other peers from other schools! We look to be putting on five days of different activities from Monday the 9th of April through to Friday the 13th! We will be doing some of the kids favourite activities from last year along with some fresh trips, including a visit to the Cinema, the Softplay Adventure Playground, Beecraigs Country Park and Summerlee Heritage Museum! On the other days we will be having arts and craft days, indoor sports activities and free play.

The activity days will be run from 9.00am – 4.00pm each day for the cost of £7 per child, per day, or just £30 for all 5 days for those with an address in the WAT IF? area! **To book a place or, for more information, please email me at [sam@watif.scot](mailto:sam@watif.scot)** Places will only be secured with a returned booking form.



Easter Holiday Club

## Timebank

Timebanking is the new way to help in your community, meet people, swap skills and get some help back.

Timebank is about spending an hour or longer doing something for somebody in your community. That hour goes into the Timebank as a 'time credit'. You then have a time credit to spend on having someone do something for you. You can use your time credit yourself, give it to another person or donate it to the community Timebank hub to be used within the community as needed.

We all have something to offer, from lending a hand to teaching a new skill. It's about communities working together to help each other. That could be anything from shopping for an elderly neighbour or hosting a coffee morning. Bank your hours, donate them to a friend/family member/charity or take them yourself! It's totally up to you!

To find out more, or to join the WAT IF? Timebank, contact Jane on 07722 130 801 or 01501 785 194 or email [jane@watif.scot](mailto:jane@watif.scot). She will arrange for an informal chat and do the bits of paperwork required. We already have 25 volunteers signed up to the WAT IF? Timebank and would love to have you join us.

**Together we can make a big difference.**



Volunteer Grifters

# WAT Next? Bursary

Three awards have been made in the first round of the 2018 WAT Next? Bursary, with three local residents each awarded £1,000 towards their education or training. We asked the recipients to tell us a bit more about what the award means to them:



Louise Neilands, Polkelly resident



Grant Crombie, Woolfords resident



Andrew Orr, Lawhead Farm

## What attracted you to the course/training that you are studying?

I decided to study Events Management as I have always been very interested in events that I have attended. I found it very interesting how so many small things come together to make the event happen, therefore I wanted to learn more about what all the small parts entailed. The course I am studying allows me to do this from all types of events from weddings to sporting events.

I have been studying to become an electrician for 4 years out of the past 6 and have achieved an NVQ 3, AM2 and 17th Edition. I was finding it hard to gain employment in the industry. I was attracted by the course as it is an essential requirement that employers in the electrical industry are now looking for.

I have an interest in rugby and have played for many years, so I thought sport science would provide me with the formal skills to sit along side the training I have received playing rugby.

## What do you hope to achieve after your course/training?

After completing my course I would like to get a local job allowing me to try and bring more events into the local community. I believe this would benefit the community and it would give me great experience.

I would hope to achieve employment within the electrical industry as an electrician.

I hope that a degree in sports science will be a good gateway to finding a job which involves rugby.

## What is the main challenge of studying while living in the WAT IF? area?

As I attend Queen Margaret University in Musselburgh, traveling to and from university is my main challenge. Due to the lack of public transport, I drive to university, but I have a lot of expenses for my car.

Poor Internet speeds, lack of public transport, the unpredictable weather and reliance on the local authority's help with clearing roads. (South Lanarkshire is one of the best, I'm directing this towards West Lothian).

Because the area is rural, and my course is at Stirling University, travel is the biggest challenge. Getting to and from both university and rugby training is a big challenge. I work on the family farm and so I need to be home more often than other students who may be able to stay at university during the week and over the weekend.

## How will the WAT Next? Bursary help you achieve your goals?

The WAT Next? Bursary will help me to achieve my goals as it will allow me to cover travel expenses and attend all my classes. By attending all of my classes I will be able to make the most of the opportunity and learn as much as possible while I am there. It will also help me to fund the books needed and make the most of volunteering opportunities that will all contribute to gaining my degree and getting a job.

The WAT Next? Bursary can help with paying for the course, relevant literature and with travel expenses, as I am using my own vehicle to attend college. I will hopefully gain employment when the course is finished and this will better myself and my family for the future. I would like to thank everyone involved with the selection process and with the promotion of the Bursary as it is a magnificent opportunity for people that want to better themselves and their families with education and learning. Thank you.

The bursary will take the financial worry away from travelling, and allow me to continue working on the farm, and attending rugby training whilst I am studying.

