

Perfect start to festive season in Possilpark



Possilpark residents take part in the lantern parade to mark the start of the Winter Festival.

Local residents in Possilpark turned up in force to celebrate the community's annual Winter Festival earlier in December.

The event, was created following discussions between local people and the Possilpark Young People and Families Group, who were keen to rekindle the fun and community spirit from previous years' Christmas activities in the community.

Based around the annual switching on of the Christmas lights, this year's event included a lantern parade which concluded at [Possilpoint Community](#)

[Centre](#), where a number of family friendly activities were underway.

"The organising committee met three times to organise the event," says Ann Lawrance, Possilpark's Young People and Families Group.

"One of our key aims was to strengthen our Young People and Families Group and to encourage collaboration. We also wanted to demonstrate the value in community participation and volunteering and encourage folk to take part in planning for next year's event.

"Seven organisations worked together to organise a range of activities which would appeal to the whole community.

"In the end we estimate that over 350 local people took part."

Craftwork included the making of 80 lanterns and 150 Christmas bags.

A Santa's grotto was created to host 105 young people meeting Santa Claus. Food was provided in the shape of hot dogs and soup to keep folk fuelled up for the fun and activities
Says Ann: "We had a disco

for the kids and a ceilidh for adults and families - there really was something for everyone

The event went really well and everyone enjoyed it and had fun."

Roll on Christmas 2017!

The event was supported by the Building Safer Communities Programme through [Inspiring Scotland](#) and the local Community Council.

Update on BSC Phase 2



**BSC Board Member
Assistant Chief Officer
David McGown, Director
of Prevention and
Protection outlines
progress on Phase 2 of
Building Safer
Communities.**

An Executive Group has been formed to progress phase 2 of Building Safer Communities - reducing unintentional harm. Strategic leads from several partners including Scottish and local Government, Health, 3rd Sector, the Scottish Community Safety Network, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, University of Edinburgh, ROSPA and COSLA have met to determine actions, and agree collaborative approaches required following completion of a Strategic Assessment of unintentional harm across Scotland.

The initial work of Phase 2 involved developing the Strategic Assessment to better understand the causal factors and patterns of unintentional

harm and injury across Scotland, including contributing factors such as deprivation, loneliness and isolation with focus on areas including in the home, on the road, fire and outdoor safety.

To support the Strategic Assessment a summary report has also been developed along with 6 thematic papers providing additional information on some of the main causes of unintentional harm, along with more detail about their subject matter, which may be of use to practitioners with an interest in a particular topic. The thematic papers cover Children and Young People, Deprivation, Home Safety, Older People, Outdoor Safety and Road Safety

Naturally, Building Safer Communities recognises that there is already a great deal of existing good work underway across Scotland to tackle unintentional harm, including policy development and the delivery of many national & local initiatives.

The Strategic Assessment does not detract from this work or replicate it, rather it provides a single evidence base for unintentional harm in Scotland, from which a co-ordinated, evidence-based preventative approach to tackling it may be developed. The assessment will therefore provide a basis for further engagement with key stakeholders to help build the picture of activity, highlight the links across prevention programmes, and identify any areas for further activity.

There is an intention to launch the findings of the Strategic Assessment throughout early 2017.

Team activity

The BSC team met with Peter Taylor of [Community Development Alliance Scotland](#) in November.

The Alliance brings together over 100 networks and organisations across Scotland to promote policy and practice that supports community development. Organisations who sign up to the Alliance receive a regular information bulletin, which outlines a wide range of useful articles, contacts and policy developments. The website features useful tools, resources and contacts for anyone with an interest in Community Development. Check out the [CDAS website](#) for more details.

SCSN Link Officers meetings

The BSC Team have been out and about attending the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) meetings with local authority safety partners across the country. Meetings so far have been hosted in Edinburgh, Hamilton, Perth and Glasgow.

The implications of the new model for Community Justice in Scotland has been high on the agenda with progress reporting from each local authority area.

Another common theme has been creating an opportunity for coordinating training for community safety staff across local authorities, with the possibility of working towards a qualification.

The BSC team took the opportunity to report on progress on Phase 2 of Building Safer Communities, progress to appoint a new National Adviser for the programme, and our new approach to communications.

Other issues discussed included Missing Persons, street begging, work around 'Place Principles' and implications from the Named Person legislation.

The next meeting in this series will be held in Aberdeen on 17 January.

The value of recognising achievements



BSC Board Member DCC Rose Fitzpatrick reflects on the power of social media and recognising individual achievement.

When I volunteered to take to Twitter [@DCCFitzpatrick](#) it was with the intention of using it in the most positive ways possible. At the beginning I asked myself how, after a professional lifetime of writing reports, letters and briefings, could I say anything meaningful in only 140 characters? TBH (as we tweeters say) that can still be a challenge, but it's a good challenge to have. I have never been short of good things to talk about on Twitter when there is so much that is positive to say about policing and the amazing people who do it and support it.

Police Scotland has 85 official Twitter accounts and 16 official Facebook accounts, along with an Instagram account posting impressively high quality photographs of policing in Scotland and a YouTube account showing the work we do via video. Through them we reach out to over 1.2 million followers and connect directly with individuals, communities, partners and media outlets across the world.

But it is not only the extent of our reach, the numbers of followers we have, that is important. For me what makes social media so powerful a tool for policing is that it is such a direct and human way to engage with people about things that matter. Whether it's giving policing information or advice, sharing good news or good humour, encouraging individuals and communities to become actively involved in keeping people safe, or celebrating amazing achievements by our colleagues and the public – when we use social media to do it we get involved in a conversation.

Finding the time to be active on social media can sometimes be a challenge in a busy day, but I enjoy the immediacy of it, how people participate by replying, liking and retweeting our messages and the fact that by using social media we – crucially - get to show the human side of policing too.

I have also been thinking more generally about the ways in which we recognise the exceptional achievements of our colleagues and members of the public who have done more than could be expected of them, often in the most challenging of circumstances. How do we ensure that all those who should be recognised have their achievements recorded and put forward? Do we understand the power and privilege of simply thanking people for doing a good job with good intention?

On 9 November 2016 the [Police Scotland Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Awards](#) were held at Tulliallan. Surrounded by very proud family and friends some 60 inspirational police colleagues and

members of the public were celebrated for exceptional bravery and dedication to serving the public in circumstances which I found truly humbling. So much and so many varied kinds of achievement to be celebrated – yet what all of these forms of recognition have in common is that they only happen because someone has taken the time and trouble to nominate an individual for what they have done.

So in thinking about the ways in which we recognise the achievements of our colleagues and members of the public I have reminded myself how important it is for all of us to take the time to recognise what people do to keep others safe, particularly when what they do is exceptional. If we don't make that time to nominate, recognise or even just thank them personally, then the extraordinary efforts we see every day – those achievements become ordinary, when they are anything but that.

Happy to Tweet!

Like [@DCCFitzpatrick](#), the BSC team have been busy on Twitter keeping folk up to date with [@theBSCprogramme](#) activities and sharing news and good practice.

We are always looking for ways to improve our communications with stakeholders and partners, and we'd love to hear about your upcoming events or activities for us to share with our followers.

We would also be happy to provide any help or support, so please get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you in the New Year!



Fearless performance puts pupils in the spotlight



Holyrood Secondary pupils in Glasgow perform their "What If" [Fearless](#) Crime drama highlighting the consequences of not reporting a crime. The Fearless initiative is by [Crimestoppers Scotland](#) and supported by the BSC programme.

SFRS advice on staying safe this festive season

Every year across Scotland, there is a rise in emergency calls to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service due to winter weather.

BSC Board Member and Assistant Chief Officer David McGown, Director of Prevention and Protection for SFRS, said: "We urge the public to take action now and be prepared for whatever hazards might come in the next few months.

"This winter SFRS will work closely with local communities and partner agencies to keep Scotland safe from fire and other emergencies - but as always, we need the public's help to reduce the amount of preventable fires we might see in the coming months.

"It is vital that your home has working smoke alarms, enough so that everyone in your home will be alerted in the event of fire. You should also consider fitting a heat alarm in your kitchen.

"Please also think about friends, relatives and neighbours. Particularly older people. Do you know someone who has no working smoke alarm in

their home? "Winter weather also brings unexpected and dangerous conditions to our roads. It's important to ensure that your vehicle is serviced, well maintained and that drivers take the necessary precautions when driving in bad weather.

If you or someone you know is vulnerable or may be at risk from

fire please get in touch and arrange a FREE home fire safety visit with local firefighters by calling 0800 0731 999 or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk.

A wide range of tips on how to keep yourself and your home safe from fire are available on the SFRS website: www.firescotland.gov.uk/winter.

Thanks to everyone for visiting our website and retweeting our tweets to help promote the Building Safer Communities programme.

This month: we gained 54 new followers on Twitter and we now have 1796 followers (and rising!).



[@theBSCprogramme](https://twitter.com/theBSCprogramme)



www.bsc.scot/



<http://www.bsc.scot/blog>



communitysafety@gov.scot

Your BSC Bulletin

We hope you have found this edition of the monthly BSC Bulletin useful and informative.

We plan to feature regular updates about what is going on in BSC areas, highlight good practice and innovation and provide useful links and information.

We would be delighted if you would get in touch with any feedback or ideas for future content.

Please contact Wendy McInnes with your thoughts:

Tel: 0131 244 2248

email: wendy.mcinnnes@gov.scot