LIVE WELL, DO WELL
STOBSWELL

STOBSWELL VOICE

Baxter Park • Clepington • Maryfield • Stobswell • Woodside

Winter 2019

BAFFIN STREET
A RESTORATION IN STOBSWELL

The back gardens between 7 to 15 Baffin Street are unusual in serving about 30 flats. In 2015, it was overgrown, with dumped mattresses, rotting coal sheds, rubbish and a falling down steamie. It seemed no one loved it or thought they had the power to make it better.

Then something started to change, a resident made a nervous start with a strimmer. The next day, looking out of the window to see how many bags would be needed for the rubbish they saw that not only had the rubbish already been bagged, but a big yellow chrysanthemum had been planted.



From that point on people started talking. There were stories about how well kept it used to be. Not wanting to upset any residents or owners an appointment to see one of the local councillors, Georgia Cruickshank, was made. She sent us along to Maryfield Regeneration team at Arthurstone Library.

Things started to move a bit quicker with letters delivered to all the flats inviting them to a meeting at the Library.

The Stobswell Forum got involved and arranged for some architects plans for the development/restoration of the "backies". This helped give us some inspiration and an idea of what could be achieved. Soon after Dundee and Angus Wood Recycling became involved, sending a work party to demolish some of the old sheds that were scattered across the back gardens. We tried to find grant funding but this was difficult for a group of residents who were still very new to all this. Instead we approached the Boomerang Centre, volunteers came along weekly, working with the residents to make real progress in clearing away more of the building debris and rubbish. We started to make some real progress.



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With most of the demolishing done we started to turn the gardens into something the residents could use and enjoy, we planted apple trees and a variety of vegetables and with the help of donated top soil the residents now use the new space particularly when the weather is nice. It is a great place to meet, sit out and just pass the time of day.



Our latest improvement is the mural organised by the Stobswell Forum and painted by SYKE (Symon Mathieson) in the entry close.

But we are not finished. We have started growing vegetables in the "over the wall" patch in the middle of the tenements "backies". So far we have potatoes, onions, kale, blackcurrants, beetroots and more apple trees. Boomerang have once again given a helping hand with the donation of a lawn mower.

So the story from Baffin Street is that you can change the place where you live for the better if you want to. It will take lots of hard work but there are people in the community who want to try and help you. If you want to find out more or see what you can do to improve the place where you live drop into the regeneration office in Arthurstone Library or email us on: info@stobswell.org.uk



IT'S OUR COMMUNITY - DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS IN THE AREA?

Making the community a bit better makes everyone happier. Your customers, people who might be your customers, your staff and maybe you as well. We want everyone in Stobswell/Maryfield to be involved and that includes all the people who run businesses in the area. There are lots of ways you can get involved:

- Give us your ideas for making the area better
- Volunteer your time and skills to get things done
- You can advertise in Stobswell Voice
- Get involved in some of our events (Doggyfest, Stobfest and Celebration in the Park)
- Come along to our meetings and help change things
- Maybe sponsor one of the events held in the area

Everything you need to know is at www.stobswell.org.uk, our new website, or email us at info@stobswell.org.uk, call us on 01382 438856 or drop into Arthurstone Library (you can find us on the first floor).



Remember, Shop well in Stobswell this Christmas

DUNDONALD STREET
AN UNFOLDING SUCCESS STORY

It's now just over a year since we started to look at how we could make the environment better in Dundonald Street. Working with the council Private Sector Services, Maryfield Community Police, Stobswell Forum, Housing Associations and the local community. Funding came from a grant from the Maryfield Regeneration Forum. We have been working at bringing security entry systems to the five properties on the south side of the street that didn't have them. So far, two properties have new systems in place with a third due before the year end and progress being made on the final two.

Why Dundonald Street? Dundonald Street took up a fair bit of police time, particularly in terms of drugs and associated anti-social behavioural problems. Buildings were in a poor state of repair and drug litter and abandoned furniture/rubbish were scattered across back gardens and common areas. Many of the residents didn't feel safe or supported and weren't in a position to take on the work and responsibilities to have the security systems installed.

Things are changing in Dundonald Street. CCTV cameras have been installed, buildings are being upgraded, communal gardens cleaned and new street art have all made the street that bit better. The police and the council are both reporting reductions of drug related litter and anti-social behaviour. We have much more to do but we'll keep at it!



If where you live is also facing problems with substance abuse, antisocial behaviour or other things that are making your lives difficult we want to hear from you and we'll try to help. Contact us either by dropping into Arthurstone Library and asking for Val or Stuart, email us at info@stobswell.org.uk, or phone us on 01382 438858.

STOBSWELL FORUM AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Forum are trying new ways of listening to what people are thinking about Stobswell through social media. While we may be relatively new to all this, we've been busy and have new Twitter and Instagram accounts (@StobswellForum for both). We'd love you to give us a follow and the occasional retweet.

We're using them for slightly different things. Twitter is a great place to engage with people and groups in Dundee and beyond. Instagram is, of course, all about images. It turns out that we live in a great looking part of town, with lots going on.

If there's anything you think we're missing from either, do get in touch on Instagram, Twitter or our long established Facebook account.

Please check out the new Stobswell Forum website at:

www.stobswell.org.uk

and you can always get in touch with us by email:

info@stobswell.org.uk

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BaxterParkEvents



STOBSWELL FORUM: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?



We're doing more and more in the area, so, if you're interested in working with local schools, promoting sustainable living, helping organise a Christmas toy appeal or want to shape what Stobswell looks like in the future, please get in touch and we can discuss how we can work together.

We also organise three large festivals: Stobfest - a week long community festival in May, Celebration in the Park - a one day family day in August, and Doggyfest - our fantastic doggy day in Baxter Park in November. They all need some help to organise, it's fun and you'll be volunteering alongside like-minded locals.

In addition, we organise the OpenClose street art project in Stobswell, the Advice Café on Albert Street, and Food on Friday in Park Hall. We also support Dundee Women's Festival in March. And, if all that isn't enough, we're working on the redevelopment of Dundonald Street and Albert Street.

So, if you think you can help, want to get involved, or simply want to help with one of our doggy days, email us at info@stobswell.org.uk, telephone on 01382 438881 or drop into the community office at Arthurstone library.

STOBFEST 2020

Art Exhibitions, Science, Music, Doggyfest, Talks, Poetry, Gala Day and lots of family fun

FRIDAY 8TH MAY - SUNDAY 17TH MAY
PROGRAMME AVAILABLE SPRING 2020

@stobswellforum
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THE STOBSWELL FORUM ARE...

Colin Clement, Robbie Fotheringham, David MacDougall, Lorraine Clement, Sandra Mitchell, Ian Kinsey, Nichola Fraser, Elizabeth Crighton, Bridget Cooper, Ali Floyd

You can contact Stobswell Forum in the following ways:

Email: info@stobswell.org.uk **Telephone:** 07801 419941 **Web:** www.stobswell.org.uk

Follow us on social media: stobswellforum @stobswellforum @stobswellforum

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