



Published by

**CHRYSTON**  
Community Council

# NEWSLETTER

Editorial Committee: IAN AUSTIN · RALPH ANDERSON

June/July 1981

No. 4

## Sweeping changes in Bus Services

For a long number of years Muirhead has been served by several of Alexander's Bluebird buses en route to their various destinations — Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, St. Andrews, Crieff as well as to Falkirk, Cumbernauld etc. The familiar blue buses, occasionally interspersed by a Red "Fife" or a yellow "Northern" amounted to well over two hundred per working day in either direction.

Yet, it was (and still is) possible to wait for more than a quarter of an hour at Station Road to get into Glasgow, and when the one came along, it might be followed by one or two more. Many a poor driver has been blamed by a queue of cold, wet and miserable passengers for keeping them waiting! A glance at an existing time-table shows gaps of thirteen and eighteen minutes between services.

From the Company's viewpoint it was not economical to run buses half empty, however pleasant it may be for a passenger to have a choice of window seats! Neither was this state of affairs pleasing to Strathclyde Regional Council which has to pay out a subsidy to public transport. Councillors are apt to lose their popularity whenever rates are increased!

During the early part of 1980 an extensive survey was conducted. Thousands of passengers using Midland Scottish (ex "Bluebird" services) filled in questionnaires. Along with other household and attitude surveys, these were analysed in depth and the results became the basis for discussion between Midland Scottish and the Scottish Passenger Transport Executive which acts for Strathclyde Regional Council on public transport matters.

As part of the Scottish Market Analysis Project (Code name, "SCOTMAP") a whole new package of services has been devised which will provide better service with less buses and with a minimal increase of subsidy to the Bus Group. As with any major change, there will be a small minority put to some inconvenience, and it was with this in mind when the representatives of the Community Council attended a meeting at which the new proposals were put forward.

The majority of commuters live in a narrow corridor from Cumbernauld through Condorrat, Moodiesburn, Chryston, Muirhead and Stepps and it is for this corridor a system has been devised. Subject to approval by the Traffic Commissioners it is proposed to inaugurate the following services in the early autumn.

Generally speaking there will be no services to the east coast as at present. There will be a minimum of eight buses per hour spaced at 7 to 8 minutes intervals for passengers to Stepps, Muirhead and Chryston.

- No. 33 GLASGOW — COATBRIDGE**  
via Stepps, Muirhead, Mount Ellen, Gartcosh, Glenboig.  
Frequency every 60 minutes.
- No. 34 GLASGOW — GARTFERRY**  
via Stepps, Muirhead, Moodiesburn X-roads, Glenmanor Heathfield. Frequency every 60 minutes. No Sunday service.
- No. 35 GLASGOW — CHRYSTON**  
via Stepps, Cardowan & Muirhead (Fleming Av.) thence Lindsaybeg Rd., Main Street, Chryston Rd., Cumbernauld Rd. Frequency every 30 minutes. No Sunday service.
- No. 36 GLASGOW — CUMBERNAULD**  
via Stepps, Muirhead, Bridgend, Glenmanor, Devro, Westfield, Craighinn Interchange to Town Centre. Frequency 30 minutes. Reduced service in evenings and at week-ends.
- No. 37 GLASGOW — BO'NESS**  
via Stepps, Muirhead, Moodiesburn X-roads, Mollinsburn, Condorrat, Greenfaulds, Cumbernauld Town Centre, Bonnybridge, Falkirk. Frequency 60 minutes.
- No. 39 GLASGOW — STIRLING**  
via route as No. 37 to Cumbernauld thence Denny. Frequency 60 minutes.
- No. 40/50 GLASGOW — ABRONHILL**  
via Stepps, Muirhead, Moodiesburn X-roads, Mollinsburn, Condorrat, Seafar/N. Carbrain & Kildrum. Peak Hours only to supplement normal services.

Sunday services will be reduced to 15 minute intervals, and the Gartferry-Blanehead service 178 will for the time being, remain unchanged.

Although service No. 33 Glasgow-Coatbridge will at present run in conjunction with Eastern Scottish Muirhead-Airdrie service, the Community Council representative protested against the reduction to an hourly service. It was confirmed however that additional buses will run a Glasgow-Glenboig service on Saturdays and at peak times.

Midland Scottish will be notifying every household in the corridor and by contract with the Post Office a wallet containing all relevant timetables and details of the fare structures will be delivered by post.

The next issue of BEACON will also advise any changes or proposed alterations.

The Community Council has been assured that by a more efficient system adopting a regular timetable, using less buses, there is no plan to reduce seating at Stappa Garage.

Cumbernauld will be served by a number of services none of which will help Muirhead passengers, for inward-bound buses will not pick up after Woodside X-roads and outward buses will not stop before them. Routes will not pass through Muirhead but will continue on A80.

Expressing doubts about the capacity of buses on an eight minute interval being sufficient to accommodate passengers at peak hours we have been assured that there will be adequate back-up to ensure seating for all. The problem of timing was raised for if the local buses had to pick up at all twelve stops between Station Road and Millerston, then it would take longer than the 22 minutes scheduled. Although the representative was not convinced with the answer given, it would be pointless to argue until proof is possible. "Time will tell".

In general the proposals were welcomed if it means a better transport system for our Community.

### Mrs. THORNTON'S COFFEE EVENING

The sum of £216.10 was handed over to Mrs. Ellen Findlay on behalf of the Strathkelvin Activities Club for the Disabled by Mrs. Agnes Thornton after a successful and enjoyable coffee evening in April, in which she thanked both her guests and helpers for making this possible.

**STOP PRESS:** A further £25 has been donated from various sources making a total of £241.10.

### SHOP HOURS CHANGES

The times given in BEACON for Feb/March for the undernoted shops have now been changed:

Clerk's SPAR Supermarket

Mon.-Tue. Wed. Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thur., Fri., 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Mon.-Fri., 8.30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat. 8.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Sun. 9.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

### LUNCHEON CLUB

Charles Irving wishes to express his thanks to all the helpers, to Mrs. McWhinnie and to the staff of Chryston School kitchen who have made this project possible.

He extends a warm welcome to any local resident of retirement age to come along on Thursdays for a good lunch with tea and biscuits for only 50p. Please Mr. Irving at 779 2767 giving him a week's notice of joining the "party".

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S FIGHT FOR LOCAL APPLICANTS

Councillor Robert Coyle objected to the proposal that people resident in Woodsideham should take part in the local applications in a number of instances and that they should be dealt with in accordance with the newly approved House Letting Regulations.

It was back in 1975 when ten Letting Districts were formed within Strathkelvin, one of which was Woodsideham/Muirhead/Chryston. Because of the availability of listed accommodation most moves were from Muirhead to Woodsideham, some people believing that they would be re-housed in Muirhead when houses became available.

When asked about this, the Councillor stated: "I fought the election in 1977, one issue of which was that Chryston Ward should be a Letting District in its own right in

order to protect the interests of the Constituents within the Community for housing. I successfully promoted this idea in January 1978 the District Council unanimously agreed to it. Since then similar conditions as applies to other Letting Districts have been rigidly maintained."

"What concerns me," continued the Councillor, "is that why should one apply out of 23 particular cases when an exception there could be very many more applications throughout the whole district with similar claims. Presumably a tenant in Stappa could now claim similar rights as the Woodsideham tenants and asked to be re-housed in Muirhead or Chryston? I feel that there is very little evidence to support a contention of 22 specified applicants should be dealt with on any different basis from all other transfer applicants who are now to be given the opportunity of opting to reside within another Letting District."

"If one examines the applications, there is nothing, in my opinion, which categorically states that Lanark County or indeed Strathkelvin gave any formal undertaking to these applicants that they had an absolute guarantee or right they would be re-housed in Muirhead/Chryston. I am concerned not only as local Member, but as Housing Convener, that if the Council adopts this motion, it will leave itself open to enquiry by other tenants who may have reasonable grounds as to why they should be excluded from the District Council open treatment. This in turn could leave the District Council open in my opinion, to a complaint. I sincerely hope that the District Council will accept the views of my motion as being fair and reasonable to all transfer tenants in the District and not to an apparently selected 23 applicants."

In January 1978 the Director of Housing explained that though there was no administrative difficulty in Councillor Coyle's proposal it would mean an increase in the numbers on the waiting list for the new area, and consequent parking allocated to house. As there is a long period of time between the time a house would be overgrown (Housing Minutes H 128 12/1/78)

### GALA EVENTS

**Wednesday, 17th June, from 7 p.m.**

5-side football on the field

Official Opening of Railway Exhibition

Covering of the Queen

Disco Music

B.B. Band

Art Exhibition (Lesser Hall)

Staircase on the field

**Thursday, 18th June, from 7 p.m.**

5-side football on the field

Lottery stall - Teatoom (Lesser Hall)

Film Show

Fun Show

All about the Railways

Teatoom

Parade & Judging Fancy Dress

Competition

Opening of Gala Day

School Sports

Majorities Display

Finns of 5-side football

On the field:

Theatre groups, Punch & Judy, Stalls run by Public Hall

Exhibition - Teatoom

**Saturday, 27th June**

Children's trip to St. Rollix - BR Open Day

### RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Strathkelvin Libraries & Museum Department Exhibition will be open from Wednesday, 17th June until Tuesday, 23rd June including Sunday between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in Muirhead Public Hall.

### International Year of Disabled Persons

#### "CAN I HELP YOU?"

By asking this question in a clear, warm voice to the next blind person you see standing at the edge of the kerb, you will be doing more good than is imagined. If the blind person requires assistance to cross the road he will say so. DON'T grab an arm and attempt to rush the person across before the stream of traffic appears!

"Tell him you are holding your own arm out for him to take if he wishes. He will probably allow himself to be led by you, keeping half a step behind you, keep talking to him. "The road is clear now," or "Well get half way and let this car go by first." Such information gives him confidence.

When you reach the kerb on the other side, say "I'm stepping up now, please hold my arm." When he reaches safety on the other side make sure you have the direction the wants to go. "Here's the corner of the grocer's, the direction is down High Street." Ten chances to one, he'll no longer need your assistance, but if you are going in the same direction ask him, in a friendly manner if you may accompany him.

Beware of half-open doors! They are painful! Always keep doors either fully open or closed when blind people are about.

If a guide dog is in attendance, don't interfere unless asked! Dogs are sometimes more intelligent than human beings anyway!

### ST. AMBROSE HIGH TAKES HOME THE SHIELD

Considered to be the most prestigious competition at national schoolboys level, the Under-15 Scottish Shield was won by St. Ambrose on Friday, 8th May, at Calross Junior's Ground, Newmans, in a hard game against Holy Cross High of Hamilton. Skill and determination led St. Ambrose to a 3-1 victory, the third goal being scored by David Mulholland of Durnsack Avenue. Congratulations to David and his team!

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting of the Community Council held on Monday, 18th May, members heard the Chairman approve the efforts made by various members throughout the past year, and heard that the same degree of enthusiasm will continue for the benefit of the entire community. The Secretary's report was adopted.

### CHRYSTON AND DISTRICT GIRL GUIDES

This year Chryston High School is the venue on Wednesday, 27th May, 7.30 p.m. for the Annual Meeting of the North Lanarkshire Girl Guides and as each division only meets the meeting once every five years, it is an important occasion for us.

The Local Association is catering for the 400 guests and the speaker will be Mr. Robert D. Howkins, Assistant Warden at the Trefoil Centre, Edinburgh, which is a holiday centre for handicapped people and their families.

This year also sees the retirement of Mrs. Pamela Aitken after ten years as District Commissioner. Pamela, who was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for her services to guiding, will certainly be difficult to replace. In her ten years of office she has helped to develop the local Girl Guides and has projects benefiting the local Girl Guides and B.G. Club. She has the grassy, improved and enlarged Guide Hall and the purchase of the ground on which it stands.

Pamela and her husband are looking forward to the birth of their third child in July so she is not going to be idle in her retirement! We would like to take this opportunity to send her our best wishes and our grateful thanks for ten years' unflinching service.

During this ten year period, Mrs. Christine McLaren and Miss Eileen McHenry look over from Mrs. Susan McKinnon and Mrs. May Taggart as District Assistants and our thanks goes to these four also for their hard work and support during the time.

We look forward to the next decade knowing that the list will be hard to follow up with the confidence that our next District Commissioner and Assistants will do their best to meet the challenge.

### TREE-CARE

Random cropping of trees by inexperienced, unskilled amateurs, despoils the beauty of trees and the countryside. It leads to misshapen and often diseased trees which quickly die. If you must have branches of your trees lopped, advice is always at hand by contacting any member of the Tree Lovers Society.

