

Bearsden & Milngavie Connect

Winter 2016 / 2017



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Welcome!

HELLO and welcome to the winter edition of Bearsden and Milngavie Connect.

Brought to you by the Herald and Times Magazine Group, this community magazine aims to celebrate all that the local area has to offer.

Inside our winter edition is packed with stories. From an action packed what's on guide on page 12 to news of a partially-sighted pianist delighting the ears of shoppers in Milgavie on page 22, there's plenty to entertain readers.

Interested in advertising?

Hand delivered through letter boxes, Connect is the ideal platform to reach families in the heart of our community.

The advertising team are also happy to help with competitive advertising rates in our sister Connect titles – offering you the chance to reach people across the country.

We hope you all enjoy the festive season and will see you again in the new year.

Until next time,

Team Connect



Visually impaired Milngavie worker delights shoppers with piano playing. Turn to page 22

Editorial

If you have a story you would like to be included in a future issue of Bearsden and Milngavie Connect contact:

Maxine McCreadie

maxine.mccreadie@newsquest.co.uk
0141 302 7742

Nicola Brown

nicola.brown@newsquest.co.uk
0141 302 7741

Advertising

To find out how the magazine can help your business connect with new customers, contact:

Fergus Melvin

fergus.melvin@heraldandtimes.co.uk
0141 302 7777

Write to us:

Bearsden and Milngavie Connect
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200 Renfield Street
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**Milngavie
Community
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Education
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Bearsden & Milngavie Connect



A star in our midst

A PUPIL from Bearsden Academy has landed a coveted role in a new child's TV programme for the BBC.

Colette Sheridan who lives in Hardgate recently made her television debut on BBC children's programme "Stacey Stone".

Colette, 15, called off a family holiday to Ireland to take part in the show, which was filmed in Dumbarton.

The BBC programme tells the story of a school newspaper agony aunt named Stacey Stone.

Although she is an extra in the majority of the episodes, Colette managed to land herself a main part as a "Trendie" for one episode.

Her proud mum, Terri, said: "She was taking part in a theatre workshop during the summer and the BBC came and chose some of the kids to play extras."



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Bearsden & Milngavie Connect

Read into 2017

AS a New Year's resolution, residents in Bearsden and Milngavie are invited to take part in the Bookbug Library Challenge, available in all East Dunbartonshire Libraries.

A free programme that encourages children from birth to discover and enjoy their local library, the challenge gives children the chance to collect beautifully illustrated certificates.

Getting involved is as easy as A B C (D), with four simple steps. First join your local library and pick up your child's Collector's Card, then collect

a stamp each time your child borrows books. When your card is full, swap it for a certificate for your child to keep, and then start collecting stamps on a new card. There are seven new beautifully illustrated certificates to collect.

Libraries have a range of great children's books you can borrow for free and your baby or toddler is never too young to join. Bookbug's free and fun Library Challenge is a great way to ignite a passion for books from a young age.

For more information about taking part and how to get the



most out of Bookbug's Library Challenge, visit www.scottishbooktrust.com.



The advertisement features a collage of magazine covers and digital devices. The covers include 'Scottish Gardener' with a large orange flower, 'Scottish Walks' with a hiker, 'Scottish Cycling' with a cyclist, and 'Family Focus' with a woman in a wheelchair. Below the covers are a laptop, a desktop monitor, a tablet, and a smartphone, all displaying the digital versions of the magazines. At the bottom, there are four website URLs: www.scottishgardener.co.uk, www.scottishwalks.com, www.scottishcyclingmag.co.uk, and www.familyfocus.scot. A text box at the bottom reads: 'Whether you enjoy pottering in the garden, walking through Scotland's beautiful landscapes, cycling through the countryside or keeping up-to-date on current issues affecting families in Scotland, we have it covered. Register for your free digital edition to our portfolio of magazines at the individual websites listed above.'

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Bearsden & Milngavie Connect



What's on

Diaries at the ready, we've got some important dates for you to jot down. We've rounded up some of the best events happening in the local and surrounding area to keep all ages entertained through the festive period and into the new year. From a quiz night to evenings of music, there's lots to keep you busy.

EVENT: Broken Records and Olympic Swimmers

Date: Thursday 20 January
Location: The Hug and Pint, Great Western Road
Time: 7.30pm
Cost: £12 on the door
What's on: Don't miss out on 2017's Celtic Connections taking place at venues across Glasgow. Catch Broken Records and Olympic Swimmers, or visit www.celticconnections.com to view the full line up and artists taking part.



EVENT: Quiz Night

Date: Monday 16 January (Every Monday)
Location: The Station pub, Bearsden
Time: 9pm
Cost: Free
What's on: Put your general knowledge to the test and celebrate the end of Monday with this weekly quiz. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, plus there's a chance to win the rollover jackpot.



EVENT: The Golden Hours of Angel Wings

Date: Friday 27 and Saturday 28 January
Location: Mugdock Country Park
Time: 7.30pm
Cost: £15 each (includes alcoholic/hot/soft drink at interval)
What's on: Back by popular demand, this moving tribute to Rabbin Burns is for over 18's only. His music and poetry all wrapped up in a new original script with a small ceilidh thrown in. To book call 0141 956 6100.



EVENT: Cera Impala & the New Prohibition

Date: Saturday 18 February
Location: Milngavie Folk Club
Time: 7.30-10.30pm
Cost: £13.09
What's on: Fill your ears with the sounds of the banjo, ukulele and guitar from Cera Impala, whose voice has been described as 'unique yet timeless'. For more information or to book tickets, visit eventbrite.co.uk.



EVENT: Give Blood

Date: Monday 27 March
Location: Killermont Parish Church, Rannoch Drive, Bearsden
Time: 2-3.45pm and 5.15-7.30pm
Cost: Free
What's on: If you're looking for ways to give back in the new year then why not attend the local blood drive to help others in need? Giving blood is quick and simple; just turn up and let the capable nurses help you complete your good deed for the day.

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Winter 2016 / 2017

Too cool to skip school

A recent report has revealed that standards of attainment among pupils in East Dunbartonshire are rising year on year, also showing that the attainment gap is continuing to narrow.

The report used the Scottish Government's National Improvement Framework to look at average scores across the different 'deprivation deciles'. These deciles range from 1 to 10 with the 10 per cent most deprived areas known as decile 1 and the 10 per cent least deprived areas referred to as decile 10.

It shows that over recent years the difference in average scores for pupils across the board is reducing and the difference in scores between deciles 1-10 is narrowing.

In 2011/12 the difference between deciles 1 and 10 was 442 points and last year (2015/16) the difference had reduced by 42 per cent to 258 points.




Councillor Maureen Henry, Convener of the Education Committee, welcomed the report and the emerging trends. She said, "These figures show that in East Dunbartonshire we are tackling inequality by working to improve the results of lower attainers as well as those of our higher achievers."




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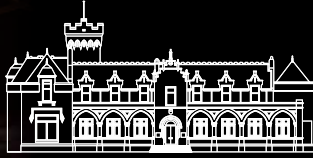


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Bearsden & Milngavie Connect



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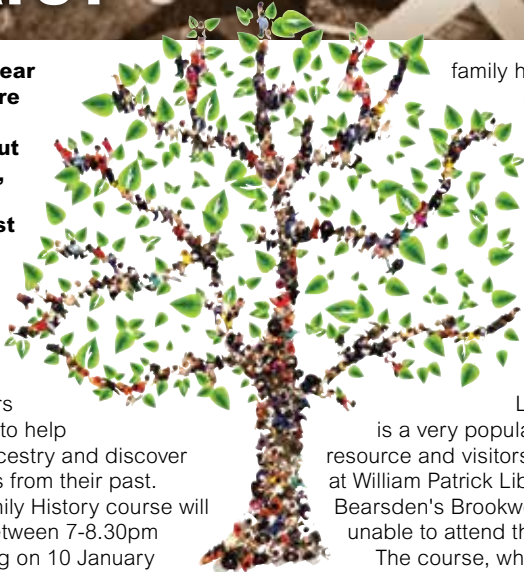
IF the turn of the year has brought a desire to look back and discover more about your family history, find help tracing your roots with East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust.

The Archives and Local Studies team have organised a beginners family history course to help people trace their ancestry and discover secrets and surprises from their past.

The Beginning Family History course will run every Tuesday between 7-8.30pm for five weeks, starting on 10 January 2017.

This five-week course will introduce you to family history research, provide coverage of all the basic sources needed to build your family tree and explain how you can further investigate the lives of your ancestors.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of EDLC Trust, said, "Today, people are very interested in their



family history and spend a lot of time trying to find out how to source information.

"The professional staff from the Archives and Local Studies team can help you discover your ancestors and get you in touch with your roots.

"The Archives and Local Studies Service is a very popular and well-used resource and visitors are always welcome at William Patrick Library in Kirkintilloch and Bearsden's Brookwood Library if you are unable to attend the course."

The course, which will take place at the William Patrick Library, costs £37.50 and can be booked by calling the centralised booking system on 0141 777 3143 or online at www.booking.edlc.co.uk/horizons/culture. Payment is by debit or credit card.

For further information on the course, call 0141 777 3142 or email libraries@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

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Bearsden & Milngavie Connect

Dozens drop in to find out more about future

People of all ages took the chance to find out more about the exciting future taking shape in Bearsden recently.

Bearsden Community Hub and Kilmardinny House will open early 2017, with nearly £6m being invested in the town.

Around 65 people attended a recent drop-in session at Bearsden Primary School - asking questions and obtaining feedback on the variety of services and facilities which will be available.

The Community Hub will bring East Dunbartonshire Council, library, leisure and cultural services under one roof, while Kilmardinny House

is being transformed into a new venue for East Dunbartonshire – supporting conferences, meetings, weddings, arts and other events.

Representatives from East Dunbartonshire Council, the Leisure and Culture Trust, and project partners were among those who spoke to local residents.

Councillor Rhondda Geekie, Leader of East Dunbartonshire Council, said, "A huge thank-you to everyone who took the time to come along to the drop-in session for Bearsden Community Hub and Kilmardinny House.

"Feedback from local residents was positive and

officers answered a range of questions on the projects - both of which are forging ahead.

"The new Community Hub will bring together a range of Council services under one roof in an exciting and innovative way - helping us to deliver services more efficiently to our residents and improve their experience of dealing with the Council.

"The transformation of Kilmardinny House will allow us to continue supporting the diverse range of arts, culture and leisure services which the facility is renowned for, while making it even more popular as a venue for events, weddings and conferences."

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Winter 2016 / 2017 19



A hearty appetite for Fair Trade



ACROSS East Dunbartonshire the desire to keep Fair Trade on the menu has been met with a ringing vote of confidence.

Elected members voted unanimously in favour of a new resolution supporting Fair Trade locally.

The motion - passed at a recent meeting of East Dunbartonshire Council - included a pledge to offer Fair Trade goods wherever possible when catering for Council meetings and functions, and to implement Fair Trade through procurement processes and those of suppliers wherever possible.

Councillor Rhondda Geekie,

Leader of the Council, said, "I am very pleased we were able to give unanimous backing to the Fair Trade resolution - reaffirming our commitment to the cause and updating the last resolution passed in December 2004.

"As a Council we fully support the principles of Fair Trade and, as a consumer, the promotion and purchase of Fair Trade goods as part of our commitment to sustainable development.

"I would like to commend the many individuals, retailers, workplaces, churches, nurseries, schools and local community groups who work tirelessly in support of Fair Trade - helping to make a direct difference to people's lives around the world.

The Council works closely with East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Steering Group, as well as Fairtrade Town groups in Lenzie, Bearsden and Milngavie.

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c o r u m
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A partially-sighted pianist has been entertaining customers at his workplace in Milngavie to raise funds for charity.

Sam Peoples from Duntocher is employed part-time by Dobbies Garden Centre in Milngavie, where he has worked for 11 years as a car park attendant and groundsman.

But the self-taught musician, 28, amazed colleagues with his skills when he took to playing the store's piano on his tea breaks earlier this year.

And when a video of him performing attracted thousands of viewers on social media, managers decided to take him off trolley duty and give him a platform for his talents.

Sam, who is studying computing at Glasgow Caledonian University, was asked to take up residence in the centre's café.

He is often given tips by his growing number of fans – but kind-hearted Sam insists that they are put in a collection bucket for St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, the store's Charity of the Year.

He said: "My boss's pal filmed me playing on her phone and put it on Facebook and more than 30,000 people watched it.

"So they said to me that they wanted me to do it permanently because it brings so many customers into the store.

"I just play for my own enjoyment, I've no interest in doing it professionally.

"I'm grateful to the management here for giving me the chance to do this and to McLaren's Pianos in Glasgow, who donated the piano to Dobbies.

"I've raised money for St



Visually impaired employee hits the right notes

Margaret of Scotland Hospice before, when I was at school, and being from Clydebank I know about the reputation they have in the community."

Sam first played the keyboard before he had started school and briefly took lessons at the age of seven.

Although he played in his spare time in the years that followed, Sam only began playing seriously three years ago when he was given a grand piano by a relative.

He is unable to read music because he is blind in one eye and can't see fully from the other – meaning he relies on his ear to pick up melodies.

Sam's disability resulted from being born prematurely, weighing just 2lb 2oz. The retina in his right eye detached from the optical nerve when

he was given oxygen to aid his breathing.

He added: "I learn much better if I just listen to a tune and practise. I play all sorts of music, from the Eagles and Elton John to Dire Straits and the Stereophonics.

"But I've had to learn some of the older classics for the customers in the store – things like Elvis, Sinatra and Patsy Cline."

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice Chief Executive Sister Rita said: "Sam's talent and dedication are an inspiration and we are very humbled that he has chosen to raise funds for the Hospice in this way.

"We would like to say thank you to Sam and the management at Dobbies Garden Centre for their continued support."

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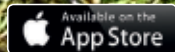
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Put caring on the menu

ENSURE families throughout East Dunbartonshire don't go hungry this festive season by helping to fuel the Foodbank's Yuletide appeal.

That's the plea from Provost Una Walker who is calling on local workers, residents and businesses to donate foodstuffs and other items.

East Dunbartonshire Foodbank's Christmas Appeal is now well underway and aims to collect fare and funds to provide 70-80 Yuletide parcels for local individuals and families in crisis.

Provost Walker has arranged collection points in Council offices at the Marina, Southbank House and Broomhill.

Council employees have

already handed in items, which will be delivered to the foodbank warehouse in Donaldson Crescent, Kirkintilloch, at the end of December.

Provost Walker said, "Christmas is a time of joy for many, but it can also be a challenging season for people struggling to make ends meet.

"I hope as many people as possible will support East Dunbartonshire Foodbank's Christmas Appeal.

"Council employees and members of the public can hand in items at our Marina HQ, Southbank House and Broomhill.

"Alternatively you can take donations directly to the warehouse at 19 Donaldson Crescent, Kirkintilloch.

The best times are Monday, Wednesday or Friday - between

The top ten items needed are:

- Tinned ham
- Christmas pudding
- Christmas cake
- Luxury biscuits
- Children's selection box
- Box of chocolates
- Large bar - chocolate
- Snacks and nibbles
- Christmas crackers
- Mince pies.

You can also help by making a financial donation or handing in other items such as toiletries.

The foodbank operates using a voucher referral system, issued by local agencies, in Kirkintilloch, Lennoxton, Milngavie and Auchinairn.

1pm
and 4pm.

"The foodbank has drawn up a top ten shopping list - if you can help by donating an item or two it would be very much appreciated."

For more information call 07425 134131.



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To infinity and beyond!

PREPARE for an out this world experience courtesy of Mugdock Country Park in 2017.

If New Year resolutions include broadening knowledge and committing to new adventures, consider taking part in the local park's Moon Evening.

Taking place on Friday 10 February from 7-8pm, visitors will have the chance to go lunar loopy and learn all about the moon's lumps and bumps.

Led by experienced Ranger's, this family event will cover everything from craters and chasms, to rockets and rocks, to stars and spacemen.

It's the perfect opportunity to learn more about what lies beyond planet Earth and encourage a curiosity among younger members of the family.

Booking is essential and costs £3. To find out more or reserve a place, call 0141 956 6100.

As well as their Ranger-led moon evening, the popular park will be hosting a series of events to add and improve upon survival and artistic skills.

On Tuesday 14 February from 2-3.30pm all ages can take part in Mugdock's Survival Afternoon.

We've all seen Bear Grylls on TV, drinking

questionable liquids and scaling great heights, but would you be able to apply the practical skills to cope in the wilds on your own?

Find help getting started by building a shelter and finding food. Discover how you would fare by coming along with the Ranger into the wilds of Mugdock.

Booking is essential and costs £5 per person. Call 0141 956 6100 for more information.

Alternatively, unleash your creative side by attending the Natural Art session and using natural materials to create sculptures and land art in Mugdock's woodlands with the Ranger. Follow signs from the visitor centre. The session runs from 2-3pm on Wednesday 15 February with donations welcome.





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Youngsters invited to make history with National Ensemble

YOUNG aspiring actors and actresses across the Bearsden and Milngavie area are being offered the chance to make history as part of a new theatre group.

Youngsters aged between 16 and 25 are being invited to an open audition for the Scottish Youth Theatre's (SYT) new National Ensemble.

The company launched the new dramatic group at the end of last year with a little help from Game of Thrones actress Kate Dickie to mark its 40th anniversary.

There will be no participation fee with entry based purely on the performer's ability and commitment.

In a bid to ensure they select the best Scotland has to offer, auditions will be held nationwide in Stornoway, Inverness, Oban, Dumfries, Stranraer, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Once recruited, the Ensemble will undertake development sessions

across Scotland working with professional theatre-makers.

"The National Ensemble is something we have wanted to do for quite some time," said SYT artistic director Mary McCluskey.

"It is an example of our commitment to giving talented young people the opportunity to challenge and develop their theatre skills. They will also have the opportunity to gain a formal qualification which will aid them in accessing further education and industry work."

SYT has a long tradition of helping some of Scotland's most talented stars shine brighter than the average 15 minutes that comes along with fame, with former students such as Dr Who's Karen Gillan and movie star Gerard Butler once treading the boards.

Kate, also a former SYT participant, was delighted to pledge her support for the National Ensemble.

She added: "I think this is a great idea. Before joining

SYT, I never thought I could even consider an acting career.

"However, my experiences at Scottish Youth Theatre of working with professional writers, directors and back stage crew improved my ability as a performer and inspired me to turn my passion into a career.

"I am delighted to encourage all aspiring young performers to join Scottish Youth Theatre National Ensemble."

It is hoped the National Ensemble will also give young people the confidence to develop their abilities and ideas, securing the future of Scotland's drama and arts future.

For more information, a full list of audition dates or to register, check out www.scottishyouththeatre.org.

Don't miss your moment

Sunday, February 12 - Scottish Youth Theatre, The Old Sheriff Court, 105 Brunswick Street, Glasgow G11TF. All participants should register before attending an audition.



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Walk this way



PUT your best foot forward in 2017 by treading the well-worn routes hailed to be some of the best walks in and around Bearsden and Milngavie.

Hogmanay celebrations often bring the desire to make positive life changes. Lose weight, quit smoking and eating healthily are some common goals people set up to accompany the clean slate of a new year. So for 2017, why not make the decision to sign up to a local walking group as

a way to meet new people, take part in healthy exercise and get to know your local area a little better?

The Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers invite people to join them on their Wednesday morning walks, which follows a programme designed to introduce people to walking by means of carefully selected walking routes around Bearsden and Milngavie that can be completed in two hours.

Suitable for both young and old, the walks are a great

introduction to improving personal fitness levels.

The walks are held every second Wednesday, beginning at the Milngavie Community Education Leisure Centre at 10am.

The dates of the Wednesday Morning Walks in 2017 are: January 18, February 1, February 15, March 1, March 15, March 29, April 12 and April 26.

For more information about taking part call Andrew Summers on 0141 942 6505.

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