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## Welcome

**HELLO and welcome to the latest edition of Bearsden and Milngavie Connect.**

Brought to you by the Herald and Times Magazine Group, this small but mighty magazine aims to celebrate the best the area has to offer.

Packed with feel good news and features, Connect prides itself on being a champion of the best things that happen in our community.

From local success stories to news of fundraising events, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

However, we wouldn't be able to do it without you and want you to be as involved as possible,

If you have a tale to tell, an event to share or simply want to tell us what you think of the

magazine, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Interested in advertising?

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

Our sales team is on hand to offer bespoke multi-media support to help you tell our readers what you do best.

And what's more, they're also happy to help with competitive advertising rates in our sister Connect titles – offering you the chance to reach people across the country.

Now all that remains to be said is we hope you enjoy this offering and we look forward to working on the next!

**Happy reading,  
Team Connect**

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**Milngavie  
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Education  
Centre:**  
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**Milngavie and  
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# Bearsden & Milngavie Connect



## Artistic students are a Class Act

**TALENTED students from across East Dunbartonshire were at the 'art' of a recent exhibition showcasing the wealth of creative skill in schools across the local area.**

Class Acts 2017 is an annual exhibition at the Lillie Art Gallery which features a range of drawings, prints, paintings, photography, fashion, 3D art and architectural design.

It is a unique opportunity for pupils' work to be viewed in a professional environment and for students from different schools to see other Higher and Advanced Higher folios.

The current exhibition displays around 250-300 pieces of art from pupils at secondary schools across East Dunbartonshire – including Bearsden Academy,

Bishopbriggs Academy, Boclair Academy, Douglas Academy, Kirkintilloch High, Lenzie Academy and Turnbull High.

The exhibition opened to raving success with almost 100 pupils, parents and locals flocking to the gallery to catch a glimpse of the works on display.

Speaking of the event, Mark Grant, General Manager of East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust, said: "Well done to everyone who contributed to Class Act 2017."

He added: "East Dunbartonshire has a wealth of talented and creative young artists, and we're delighted to help showcase their works."

For more information on local exhibitions, cultural activities and workshops, visit the new EDLC website - [www.edlc.co.uk](http://www.edlc.co.uk)





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## Switch-on to digital learning

**AS we move further into the digital age it can be all too easy for some of us to feel like we're lagging behind.**

From online shopping and banking to computers serving us in shops, we live in a time where technology is king and it's showing no signs of slowing down.

With that in mind Bearsden residents are invited to learn with their local library.

Every Monday, Bearsden Library is pleased to host a range of different sessions to help residents become more IT literate.

From 10am until 12 noon from Monday April 10 until June 26, the library will play host to drop-in sessions.

The free events will offer people a chance to bring along their own portable device, whether



it be an iPad or Android tablet, smartphone or e-reader, with the team on hand to offer support with any queries or struggles.

Locals can also make the most of three week beginner courses to guide them through using an iPad or an Android device.

From connecting to Wi-Fi or a hotspot to security and safety, each of the sessions will aim to make the process of using a device as simple as possible.

The three Android for Beginners sessions will take place on May 22 and 29 as well as June 5, while the three iPad for Beginners courses will run on June 12, 19 and 26 between 2pm and 3.30pm.



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## Bearsden & Milngavie Connect

# Bearsden boys outsmart the competition

**A TEAM from Boys' Brigade 1st Bearsden Company has outsmarted all the competition to win the BB National Masterteam Final 2017.**

Six BB teams made up of members from 1st Bearsden, 1st Polmont, 1st Guildford, 1st Cheslyn Hay, 1st Ardstraw and 4th Newtownabbey won through to the final, held in Belfast.

It was John McEwan, Greg Wood, Ross Brown and Fergus Hempel from 1st Bearsden who scooped this year's championship in a quiz tournament which included general and biblical knowledge, famous landmarks, history and famous faces.

The National Masterteam competition is one of a series of competitions in which BB members from across the British Isles take part.

The win by 1st Bearsden has provided double



success for the company this year as its team clinched the national chess title last month. Two of the Masterteam team members – John McEwan and Fergus Hempel – were also part of the winning chess team.

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Advertisement Feature

## Wheelie good solutions for recurring bin issues

**SOMETIMES keeping our gardens tidy can be easier said than done.**

There's more to showing your outdoor space a little TLC than keeping the flowerbeds blooming and the grass short and neat.

For many people, tackling unruly bins is a very real concern.

From bins being moved or falling over to others sneakily placing their rubbish into a neighbour's if they're struggling for space of their own ahead of bin collection day – the politics are more than just trash talk.

Do you struggle to keep your bin area looking ship shape?

Most of us know the dread of looking into the back garden after a windy night, knowing that we'll be faced with rubbish all over the garden.

Sound familiar?

If it does, look no further than BinPin.

The company specialises in special wheelie bin locks to help make sure you don't have any dramas with your outdoor space in future.

Forget unsightly locks and chains and opt for a simple yet practical solution.

With a range of different styles of lock available, including lid locks, a bin pin and wall bracket combination lock and a wheelie bin stand there is something to suit every need.

The process of installing the locks are quick and hassle free with dedicated staff on hand to guide you through the process.

For further information and to check out the BinPin in action, visit [www.binpin.co.uk](http://www.binpin.co.uk)

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# Dine out for a good cause

### **CALLING all ladies who lunch.**

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice is inviting women from across Bearsden and Milngavie to dine out for a good cause this May.

The hospice, which provides compassionate and dignified palliative care to those with life limiting illnesses, is set to host its annual Ladies' Lunch on Sunday, May 21.

The glitzy event with its Uptown Girls theme will take place in Glasgow's Radisson Blu Hotel between 1pm and 5pm and will take guests on a high-powered journey of fashion and music from the 80s up to the present day.

Proceedings will begin at 12.30pm, with a chance to shop for the best in fashion and

cosmetics at a range of stalls.

A sparkling reception follows at 1pm, before a fantastic three-course meal and a catwalk display, provided by House of Fraser.

Later, guests can enjoy entertainment from the Singer Swingers and The Voice star Barbara Bryceland and the all-afternoon event will also feature a raffle, a tombola and an auction.

Tickets are available for £50 per person.

A special early bird discount is available for tables of up to 10 guests at £45 per person until Thursday 27 April.

To book or for further information call 0141 435 7018.

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice has been providing dignified care to



people in their time of need for more than 65 years.

Since opening its doors in 1950 the hospice has touched the lives of thousands of patients and their families.

The organisation is required to raise £40,000 each week to stay open and continue to serve the local community.

The Ladies Lunch helps ensure the hospice can continue to offer the highest level of care.



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## Bearsden & Milngavie Connect



### A highland fling

**RESIDENTS** are being urged to save the date for the annual Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games.

Taking place on Saturday, June 10 the free event is expected to be bigger and better than ever before.

What originally began as a fundraising venture has grown over the last four decades to become one of East Dunbartonshire's biggest days of the social calendar.

And with big name chieftains including Sir Jackie Stewart in 1978, Red Rum in 1980 and most recently Emmerdale's Chris Chittell in 2016, locals are waiting in anticipation for the 2017 master of ceremonies to be unveiled.

Guests of all ages can expect an afternoon of fun at the West of Scotland

Rugby Club in Milngavie with the event set to kick off at 1pm.

Throughout the day visitors can expect a host of traditional highland games events, including Scottish dancing, heavies, wrestling and much more as well as the Haggis World Hurling Championship.

There'll also be plenty of treats on offer from a selection of stalls and displays as well as fairground rides, a Scottish Farmers Market and live music throughout the day.

Organised entirely by volunteers, the games also raise cash for Funding Neuro with all profits going to the charity partner.

To keep up to date with the latest news from the games, visit [www.bearsdenmilngaviehighlandgames.com](http://www.bearsdenmilngaviehighlandgames.com)



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ANA Maria Ortega appreciates that a wedding is a day like no other.

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Proud to offer a personal touch, Ana Maria holds one-to-one consultations in her Bearsden showroom in a relaxed atmosphere to help customers find the perfect hat.

She is pleased to concentrate all of her efforts to make sure that a hat will compliment a customer's outfit and reflect the image the customer is looking for.

"From the moment I see a customer's face, I am already thinking of what kind of style is right for her," laughs Ana Maria, "and I love it even more when a lady tells me that she doesn't suit hats!

"When she allows me to try something on her and suddenly she's amazed, that is such a fulfilling moment for me."

She continues: "The most important thing is to understand what the customer's requirements are, find the right design for them and their personality and make something unique to be truly admired, or to have the wow factor if that is what they are looking for.

"The way I see this profession is that only perfection is acceptable."





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# Bearsden & Milngavie Connect

## What's on

Don't miss a moment of the action on your doorstep with our handy What's On guide. With a collection of some of the best events taking place in Bearsden, Milngavie and the surrounding areas over the next few months, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

From community meetings to art exhibitions, we've got the local area covered.

And remember, there's nothing we love more than hearing from our readers so if you'd like us to publicise an event for you don't be shy and get in touch.

Email [Maxine.McCreadie@newsquest.co.uk](mailto:Maxine.McCreadie@newsquest.co.uk) or [Nicola.Brown@newsquest.co.uk](mailto:Nicola.Brown@newsquest.co.uk) with the details and we'll be sure to include them in the next edition.

Don't forget to let us know how your events go as well by sending your snaps too!

### Event: Milngavie Art Club Annual Exhibition

**Date:** June 3- June 30

**Time:** Tuesday – Saturday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

**Location:** Lillie Art Gallery

**Cost:** Free

**What's on:** This exhibition is proud to celebrate a diverse range of mediums. Works on show will include landscapes, still life and portraits. Work on display will be available for purchase.

### Event: Bearsden Art Club Annual Exhibition

**Date:** April 29 – May 25

**Time:** Tuesday – Saturday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

**Location:** Lillie Art Gallery

**Cost:** Free

**What's on:** A showcase of local talent with artists unveiling an exhibition of paintings, ceramics, jewellery and textiles. All welcome.

### Event: Women's History Walks

**Date:** May 11, 18 and 25

**Time:** 6pm-8pm

**Location:** Milngavie Library

**Cost:** Free

**What's on:** The team from Glasgow Women's Library are set to host three sessions for those interested in women's history and outdoor walking. The team will help participants develop their own women's history walk from stories and memories of local women and produce a plan for your own walk. Further information can be found by emailing [info@trailsandtales.org](mailto:info@trailsandtales.org) or calling 0141 777 3092.

### Event: Give Blood session

**Date:** July 3

**Time:** 2pm-3.45pm then again at 5.15pm and 7.30pm

**Location:** The Town Hall, Station Road, Milngavie, G62 8BZ

**Cost:** Free

**What's on:** Residents are being invited to pay it forward at the next blood donation drive in the area. The Scottish National Blood Transfusion (SNBT) team will set up shop in the Town Hall, hosting two sessions on the day. The process of giving blood is quick and simple. It only takes between five and 15 minutes to donate a full pint of blood. Find out more at [www.scotblood.co.uk](http://www.scotblood.co.uk)

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## Advertisement Feature

# Proud to go the extra mile

**WITH spring in full swing there has never been a better time to spruce up your outdoor space.**

As the night's grow lighter and the weather drier, albeit only slightly, spring offers the ideal opportunity to take a moment to make ourselves at home outdoors.

However, there's more to tidying up the garden than pruning weeds and cutting the grass.

For your home to have the ultimate kerb appeal it is important your drive way and path ways look their best too.

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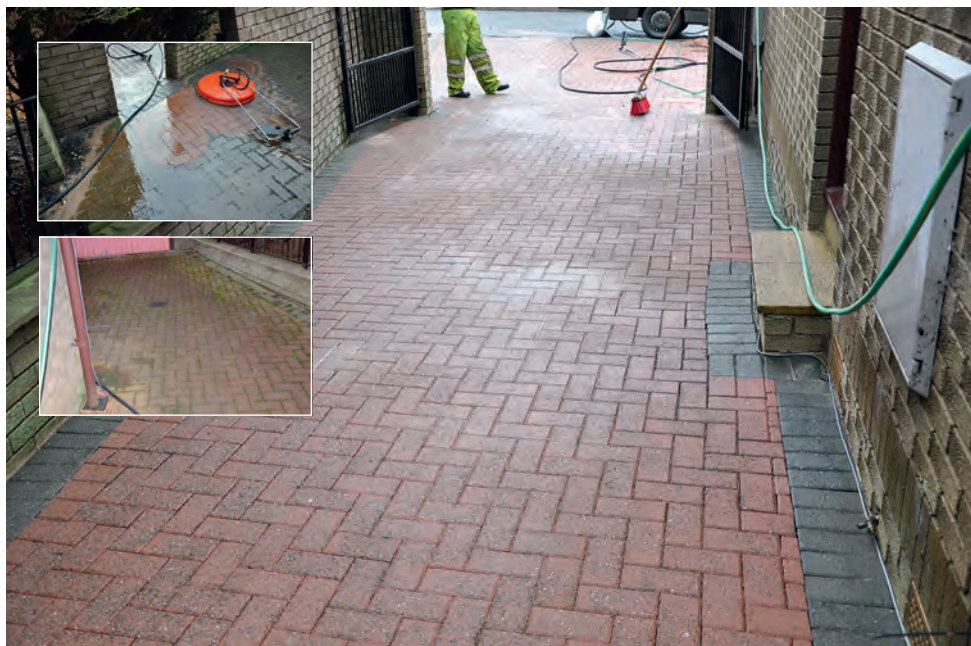
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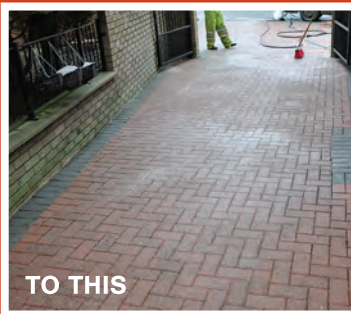
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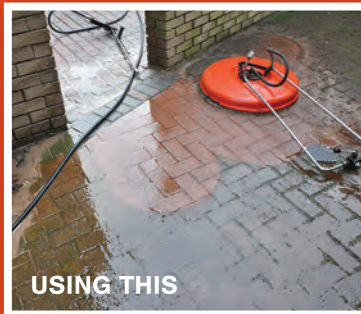
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# Bearsden & Milngavie Connect



## On yer bike!

### **IT'S ready, set, go for the The European Cycling Challenge (ECC) this May.**

Residents from across Bearsden and Milngavie and being urged to get on their bikes between May 1 and 31 as part of the initiative which encourages people to embrace a little pedal power – whether it's for leisure, pleasure or a commute.

Glasgow City took part last year and - when the combined miles cycled were added up - finished a respectable 18th in Europe (out of 52).

This year the aim is to get even more people involved, with the Glasgow team widened to include East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

Participants track their bike trips with a free app - contributing to the overall mileage - and can check their team position in real-time via online leaderboards.

The ECC also provides valuable data - creating 'heat maps' which show popular routes, cyclist activities, areas of potential congestion and more.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has joined forces with East Dunbartonshire Council and other local authorities in the west of Scotland to promote the initiative.

Thomas Glen, East Dunbartonshire's deputy chief executive - Place, Neighbourhood &

Corporate Assets, said: "Whether you are cycling all the way to work, to the station, going to the shops or just enjoying being out and about on your bike, we want you to take part and record your routes.

"The combined miles cycled between 1 and 31 May by people in and around East Dunbartonshire will be calculated and will go towards Glasgow City Region's final standing.

"Please get involved. It all adds up - not just for the challenge, but also in terms of fitness and wellbeing.

"It will also help to provide detailed feedback about cyclists' needs and the challenges being faced by people who wish to travel more actively.

"In addition, there are more than 120 prizes for best cyclists and prize draws throughout just for taking part and getting out on your bike.

"Promotion of cycling and walking is a priority for this Council, which is forging ahead with its Active Travel Strategy."

All cycling is permitted as part of the ECC with the exception of sporting and training events.

To get involved, sign up at [www.cyclingchallenge.eu](http://www.cyclingchallenge.eu) and choose Glasgow City Region.

Simply download the official app - Naviki - available on Apple, Android and Windows - where you can record your journeys during May and also check the leaderboards.

For further information on the challenge visit [www.nhsggc.org.uk/ecc](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/ecc)



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# Potter fans disappointed after festival is cancelled



**HARRY Potter fans were left feeling anything but magical as a popular festival set to take place in Bearsden was cancelled.**

Organisers of the three-day wizarding extravaganza – which had been scheduled to take place from June 23 to 25 – said they had been ‘blown away’ by the enthusiasm from the festival but have had to call it off due to a variety of different issues.

In a statement they said: “We want to make it work but now we need much more time to do so.

“Because it has grown so big, we have to sort out safety, parking, capacity and licensing implications and we will not have enough time to do that for this year but want to work on that for some time in the future.

“We hope you understand and we know many will be disappointed,

but after conversations with the police and our local council - who have both been incredibly helpful and supportive - we believe this is the right course of action for us - but watch this space for the future.”

To celebrate 20 years since J. K. Rowling’s ‘The Philosopher’s Stone’ was first published, locals had come together to turn the town into a spellbinding festival.

Butterbeer and Potter burgers were to be made available at a great Forbidden Forest BBQ, and there was also to be a special Room of Requirement at Café Crème in New Kirk Road.

Fantastic beasts would have been making an appearance and a Quidditch tournament and Harry Potter service was also set to take place with many other events lined up around the town.

Our sister title The

Evening Times reported ahead of the event and readers quickly showed enthusiasm for it: within hours, our Facebook post received almost 10,000 reactions, comments, and shares.

As fans from across the country and Europe became spellbound, organisers reminded them on Tuesday that it’s a “local event” and not “something like T in the Park.”

“We never imagined - foolishly perhaps - that people would be prepared to travel from down south and across from Ireland and even from the Netherlands for a Harry Potter festival,” said organisers.

“We are absolutely going to be running a Harry Potter festival but we don’t want people to be disappointed in what they find,” they added before cancelling.

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# Locals encouraged to report deliberate fires



**BEARSDEN and Milngavie residents are being urged to join the fight against fire this spring.**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is warning locals of the dangers of deliberate fire setting with spring in full swing.

According to the service spring usually sees an increase in the number of deliberate secondary fires reported due to anti-social behaviour, drier weather and the lighter nights.

Latest figures reveal a total of 12,275 such incidents were reported over 2015/16 marking an increase on the previous year when it stood at 11,167.

SFRS Assistant Chief Officer David McGown, Director of Prevention & Protection, said: "Our primary concern is always the welfare of everyone in Scotland and we want people to enjoy a safe Easter break.

"Unfortunately, at this time of

year we typically see an increase in the number of deliberate fires set across the country.

"This illegal activity is not only reckless but also prevents our crews from attending real emergencies."

According to the latest SFRS incident statistics, published last October, there were 2,297 reports of deliberate secondary fires in Glasgow City, 1,505 in North Lanarkshire and 1,309 in Edinburgh.

This is compared to no reports in the Shetland Islands, a single incident in Orkney and five in the Western Isles.

ACO McGown added: "It's important people understand the dangers and consequences of this unacceptable behaviour.

"Firefighters continue to engage with local communities and work closely with partners in an effort to reduce the number of incidents.

"We are working proactively, visiting schools and community groups to help those who are involved in firesetting realise that their actions can have very serious consequences. But while we are determined to engage with and influence those individuals who may set fires, we would also encourage the community to help.

"Today, I urge people to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

"Fire setting is an offence – don't accept it, report it."

There are a number of ways the public can help prevent deliberate fires from taking hold such as:

- Be aware of strangers loitering in your street – if they do so for some time, inform Police Scotland on the non-emergency number 101.



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