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Welcome!

WELCOME to the winter edition of Lenzie and Kirkintilloch Connect.

Our popular series of Connect magazines are brought to you by Herald and Times Magazines, the publishers behind trusted titles such as Scottish Farmer and High Flyer.

Lenzie and Kirkintilloch Connect is your community magazine, keeping you in the loop with news and events from the local area.

This issue is packed with stories. From news of some lucky Lenzie Academy pupils' trip to Iceland on page six, to Kirkintilloch's skate park clean up on page 18, there's lots of community news to sink your teeth into. On page 16 our what's on guide also rounds up some of the best events for the whole family to enjoy.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who has supported this edition, we hope you enjoy.



Pupils and teachers enjoyed the official opening of Lenzie Meadow Primary. Find out more on page 8.

Editorial

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

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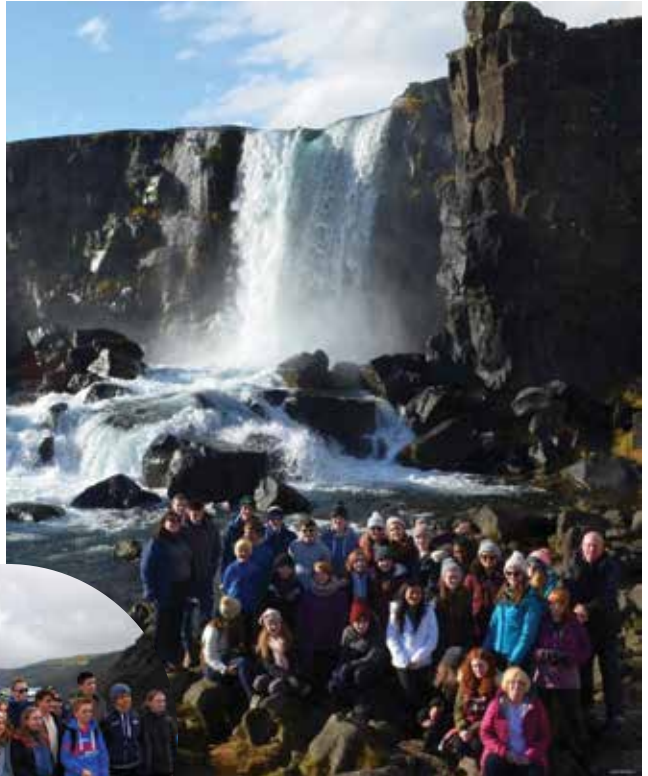
LENZIE Academy pupils went on the ultimate school trip in October as they made the journey to Iceland.

A total of 27 students from both fifth and sixth year, along with three members of staff, embarked on the action packed three-day tour of the island of volcanoes, mountains, hot springs, glaciers and spectacular waterfalls.

The trip got off to an exciting start as the pupils met First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on their flight who was delighted to speak with the youngsters and pose for photos upon arrival at Keflavik airport.

Under the direction of local guide Jonas, the students made sure not to miss a moment of the action.

Their first day was packed with a trip to the Golden Circle where they saw the spectacular Kerið Crater, the breath-taking power of the Gullfloss Waterfall, and the Stokur Geysir with its thrilling explosion of water some 30 metres into the air.



Students also had the chance to visit an earthquake simulator before visiting the historic Þingvellir National Park where they trekked between the American and Eurasian tectonic plates – thankfully without a real earthquake!

The day was finished off it was off to the Hellisheiði Power Station, the third largest in the world, which supplies both electricity and hot water for Reykjavik's home.

Day two saw the students enjoy a tour of the South Shore where they climbed

the Sólheimajökull glacier – bringing home the reality of climate change.

Next it was off to the Black Beach where wild Atlantic waves break on the shore – and paddling isn't an option – before walking behind the thundering Seljalandfoss waterfall.

And finally, on their third day pupils had the chance to visit the famous Blue Lagoon and bathe in the warm mineral waters before taking a tour of Reykjavik.

Teachers have praised the youngsters for their enthusiasm and behaviour, hailing them as a 'credit to their parents and Lenzie Academy'.



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Kirkintilloch & Lenzie

Lenzie Meadow Primary School's official opening

LENZIE Meadow Primary School and Early Years Centre had their official opening earlier in 2016 when leader of East Dunbartonshire Council, Councillor Rhondda Geekie, attended a ceremony at the new school building.

During the ceremony Councillor Geekie was joined by Lenzie Meadow pupils Ben and Bluebell to reveal the commemoration plaque declaring the school officially open.

Councillors, teachers, building partners and pupils attended to mark the occasion within the fantastic new building, the second to be built as part of the Council's £48m Primary School Improvement Programme.

Speaking at the ceremony, Council Leader Rhondda Geekie, said, "Representing an investment of almost £11.5m, including £5m funding through the Scotland's Schools for the Future programme, each part of this new school is designed to support the on-going implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. This new school is a real testimony to what can be achieved



through working in partnership as every one of our partners has made a significant contribution. I must admit that we are all very proud of this building and what has been achieved."

The new school has been built on the site of the old Lenzie Moss Primary and is a merger of both Lenzie Moss and Lenzie Primary Schools. It is home to 568 pupils and 58 pre-school children in the new early years centre.

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Karen Rinaldi, Manager of the Stepdown Foster Care Services, would be pleased to answer any questions you might have about fostering. You can ring her on 0141-762-4523 or text STEP to 66777 and you will receive a reply immediately. You might also like to visit our website: www.stepdown.org.uk

Stepdown looks forward to hearing from you.

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At the heart of Kirkintilloch

INSPIRATIONAL works by local artists are being showcased at the heart of Kirkintilloch town centre.

A new wall has been created on the corner of Catherine Street and Cowgate - featuring a range of stone carvings by talented members of the local community.

The wall is a partnership between East Dunbartonshire Council's Kirkintilloch Masterplan team and the Leisure and Culture Trust's Trails & Tales programme.

Volunteers Barbara MacIntosh, Blair Findleton and Robin Ewart worked with artist Lucinda Wilkinson over a number of months to create a series of stone artworks reflecting the heritage of



Kirkintilloch - such as the Strathkelvin Coat of Arms, a foundry worker and a lion's head.

Training was provided through the Trails & Tales programme, which established a stone-carving site in partnership with the Council at Kirkintilloch Marina.

The Seagull Trust provided a temporary space for volunteers and artists to work.

The outdoors activity ran one day a week for over 12 months. In addition, stone-carving taster sessions were provided as part of Kirkintilloch Canal Festival and Doors Open Day.

Councillor Rhondda Geekie, Leader of the Council, said: "I am delighted these wonderful works of art have now been installed in a new stone wall at the Catherine Street junction.

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Support local town centres this Christmas

LOCAL people are being urged to support their town centres in the run-up to Christmas and beyond.

Efforts continue in East Dunbartonshire to ensure Bearsden, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch and Milngavie town centres not only survive, but thrive.

People who live and work in the towns have been urged to use local shops, businesses and hostleries as much as possible.

The call comes during Scotland's Towns Week - organised by Scotland's Towns Partnership.



Christmas lights will be switched on in all four town centres.

This year's Christmas lights switch-on events are being led by the community, with support from the Council as regards to the supply of the festive lights, power supply, officer time and trees where appropriate.

Meanwhile, the Council is developing strategies for Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Milngavie town centres and people are being urged to get involved.

Councillor Rhondda Geekie, Leader of the Council, said: "I would invite everyone who lives or works in East Dunbartonshire's town centres - and indeed everyone who visits - to use local shops and businesses as much as they can.

"There are some wonderful retailers and hostleries, with many special offers in the run-up to Christmas."

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Good sports honoured

INSPIRATIONAL sporting heroes have been honoured for their efforts to encourage people of all ages to get

active, go for gold and take part in community sport.

The winners of the 2016 Club, Coach and Volunteer Awards

- organised by East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture (EDLC) Trust - have been announced.

Local winners were invited along to Lenzie Golf Club for the gala event -attended by representatives of the Council and Trust Board.

Among the local winners, Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth Amateur Swimming Club (KKASC) certainly did not leave empty handed. June Campbell from the club scooped Young Persons Coach of the Year; Alan Scobie won the Community Coach award; and to top it off they won Club of the Year too.

Elsewhere, Ian Stevenson from Lenzie Youth Club won the Contribution to Sport award.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of EDLC

Trust, said, "Well done to all the winners and nominees put forward for this year's Club, Coach and Volunteer Awards.

"East Dunbartonshire is lucky to have such a wealth of inspirational, hard-working and knowledgeable sports coaches and volunteers.

"The Trust and Council work together to provide sporting and leisure opportunities for people of all ages, but a huge vote of thanks is due to the inspirational coaches and volunteers in the community encouraging people of all ages to get active and involved in sport.

"The awards recognise the shining stars who inspire, support and nurture sporting people of all ages and from all backgrounds."

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Something for everyone at Lenzie Golf Club

LENZIE Golf Club is swinging into the new year with a host of exciting developments that have taken shape over the past few months.

Renowned for their immaculately kept course surrounded by picturesque parkland and woodlands, the club's facilities have recently undergone a revamp to bring the entire member experience up to exceptional standards.

Carrying out modern updates whilst retaining their traditional charm, the club are pleased to unveil a fresh new look for 2017.

Both ladies and gents are now able to enjoy the refurbished locker rooms ahead of their game of golf.

After extensive renovation work, the changing rooms now boast a fresh new look and include new lockers able to accommodate modern style

golf bags.

The locker rooms are not the only new addition to the club, the new Alma restaurant is known for providing a stylish establishment to enjoy delicious food.

After opening three months ago, Alma, which is headed up by Michelin Star trained chef Brian Home and his team, invites diners to enjoy the sumptuous two or three course menus.

For just £9.95 diners can fill up with a two-course meal, or enjoy three courses for only £12.95 mid-week.

The restaurant is also proud to serve up a mouthwatering a la carte menu at the weekends, offering guests the chance to tuck into some truly tasty dishes such as the seafood platter for two and much more.



Lenzie Golf Club members can enjoy Alma restaurant after making a quick reservation.

However there is also the option for members of the public keen to make the most of the clubhouse facilities to sign up for a social

membership and support the club.

With function rooms also available for use for events or meetings, it's a multifaceted space with a variety of uses.

And what's more Connect readers can also make the most of a special discount on memberships with use of the code LENZ 2017.

To find out more about membership rates for 2017, visit www.lenziegolfclub.co.uk or call 0141 776 1535.

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Kirkintilloch & Lenzie

LOCAL volunteers took a stance against litter in the area when they helped carry out a clean-up of Kirkintilloch skate park in November.

Along with council staff, forty bags of rubbish were collected in just two hours.

The Community Protection Team - most of whom were not on duty but were volunteering - joined local residents and Place Police Officer Alison Lang to tidy up the area which is popular with local families.

Council Leader Rhondda Geekie thanked everyone for their efforts. She said: "The area around the skatepark, viaduct and Luggie Park are very well used by local people.

"It is important that we look after our facilities and



Volunteers get skates on for clean up mission

this clean-up was a great opportunity for us to work together to ensure it is kept in good order.

"At a recent public meeting concerns were raised about some anti-social behaviour

around the skatepark so this was a chance to do something positive. We will continue to work with the Police and local people to make the very best of the assets we have on our doorstep."

P

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What's on

As we approach the New Year, it's the perfect time to fill up calendars with festive thrills. The local area has lots happening to kick off 2017 with pantomimes, book bug events and singing groups to try.

We've rounded up some of the best events in the local area to suit all ages.

EVENT: Christmas Art & Craft Exhibition

Date: Friday 23 December

Location: Auld Kirk Museum

Time: 10am-1pm and 2-5pm

Cost: Free

What's on: Pop along for some Christmas gift inspiration where the museum will be selling a wonderful range of arts and crafts from both local and national craft makers. This year's guest artist is Ann Armstrong, who studied at Glasgow School of Art. Her paintings are inspired by her travels.

EVENT: Bricks for Kidz

Date: Wednesday 4 January

Location: Bishopbriggs Community Church

Time: 10am-1pm

Cost: £20

What's on: A winter wonderland Christmas Holiday Workshop in Bishopbriggs, celebrate the season by helping to build a winter wonderland. There will be themed LEGO® brick builds including a motorised Horse and Sleigh, Santa's Train and more. Call 07971515141 for more.

EVENT: Bookbug Baby/ Toddler

Date: Thursday 19 January

Location: Lenzie Library

Time: 2-2.30pm

Cost: Free

What's on: Clap your hands, touch your toes, turn around and put your finger on your nose. Pop along to a Bookbug session with your baby or toddler and enjoy rhymes, songs, tickles, bounces and books. It's also a good opportunity to meet other parents/carers.

EVENT: Mother Goose Panto

Date: Monday 16 – Saturday 21 January 2017

Location: Lenzie Academy

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: £10 (£8 concession)

What's on: Banish those January blues and join Priscilla the Goose and her pals on an eggciting adventure in Gooseland in this year's panto. The Kirkintilloch Players' panto is legendary in the area so don't miss out. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketsource.co.uk/kirkintillochplayers or at the Sweetie Shop in Kirkintilloch.

EVENT: Rock Choir

Date: Tuesday 17 January 2017

Location: The Park Centre, Kirkintilloch

Time: 8pm

Cost: First taster is free

What's on: Join your local rock choir and sing out. The group rehearses pop, rock and Motown tunes and performs at a variety of events and shows. No prior singing experience is needed and your first taster is free.

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Local group stage Christmas panto

FEW of us can deny a good panto at Christmas time (oh, no we can't!).

Luckily, for those looking to get their annual fix of crying 'boo', 'hiss' and 'he's behind you!', the Kirkintilloch Players are on hand to provide a festive treat to the community with their production of Mother Goose.

Combatting the January blues, the talented bunch will be staging their performance in Lenzie Academy from Monday 16 – Saturday 21 January 2017.

Described by organisers as a 'colourful, traditional, fast-moving panto', the production will be

suitable for all ages.

From Monday to Friday the curtain will be up at 7.30pm and on Saturday there will be two shows at 2pm and 6.30pm.

To book tickets, visit www.kirkintillochplayers.co.uk or pick one up in person from The Sweetie Shop, Townhead, Kirkintilloch.

The advertisement features four magazine covers: 'Scottish Gardener' with orange flowers, 'Scottish Walks' with a hiker, 'Scottish Cycling' with a cyclist, and 'Family Focus' with a woman in a wheelchair. Below the covers are digital versions of the magazines on a laptop, a desktop monitor, a tablet, and a smartphone. The website addresses are: www.scottishgardener.co.uk, www.scottishwalks.com, www.scottishcyclingmag.co.uk, and www.familyfocus.scot.

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.

THE GYM

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Drop in and have a chat with one of our Gym staff

Gym will close for a major state of the art equipment upgrade from Monday December 19 re-opening 27th December. Gym staff will be available during the closure to talk with anyone interested in finding out more about joining the Gym.

www.edlc.co.uk/helath_fitness/thegym.aspx

Take a moment to give back

AT Christmas time many of us seek to give back in whatever way we can to help those less fortunate.

When the season of gift giving arrives and we take time to appreciate the things that matter most, it's natural to want to carry out good deeds and pay it forward.

If this sounds familiar, then why not help out the families in need within the area via the East Dunbartonshire Foodbank. The team are

currently welcoming items which can be put to good use in their Christmas parcels and hampers.

Seeking to assist families and ensure Christmas is still special even for those struggling financially, this year the local foodbank welcome donations of tinned ham,

Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, luxury biscuits, selection boxes, box of chocolates, snacks and nibbles, Christmas crackers and mince pies.

So if you're out doing a Christmas shop, why not pop a few extra items in the trolley to help others?

East Dunbartonshire Foodbank are part of the Trussell Trust Foodbank network: an emergency service offering support to people in need. Working as part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, the Kirkintilloch centre works to combat poverty and hunger in the area, providing emergency food supplies.

They rely on volunteers and donors to carry out their work.



Find the foodbank at Upper room, 52 Townhead, Kirkintilloch or call 07425 134131



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Community Christmas spirit

BRIGHT festive fun will be on offer at this year's Christmas Lights Switch On evening.

rganised by Lenzie Community Council, kick start the season with this family friendly event.

Taking place at Queen's Buildings and Lenzie Old Parish Church, wrap up warm and head along to watch the Christmas sparkle into action when the event begins at 5pm start, with the night ending at 7pm.

Also gracing the community's Christmas calendar, on Monday 2 January get the New Year off to a running start by joining the New Year Fun Run.

A much loved annual event, registration starts at 10am with three distances to include all abilities. Taking part costs £2 for adults and £1 for children, which includes soup and a roll at the finish.

Find out more at www.lenziecommunitycouncil.org.uk.

Anyone keen to take part in the next Lenzie Community Council meeting can head along to the committee room in Lenzie Hall on Wednesday 14 December at 7pm.

The sound of Christmas music

FOR those yet to get their hands on one of the season's hotly anticipated concerts, there's still time.

East Dunbartonshire's talented young musicians and angelic singers will soon be performing their annual spectacular Christmas Gala Concert in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Last year's sell-out event treated the audience to a programme of popular orchestral music and festive favourites by the East Dunbartonshire Secondary Schools Orchestra and the East Dunbartonshire Primary Schools Choir.

Taking place on Monday 5 December at 7.30pm, people



can pick up tickets for £12 (£10 for concessions).

Jane Ferguson will be conducting the orchestra and more details can be found by calling 0141 353 8000 or visiting www.glasgowconcerthalls.com.

There will also be contributions from pupils of the East Dunbartonshire Children's Chorus and Youth Choir, the Gaelic Unit of Meadowburn Primary School and pupils from Merkland School. Pre-

concert music will be provided by a String Ensemble from selected East Dunbartonshire Primary Schools and the East Dunbartonshire Schools Jazz Orchestra.

Councillor Maureen Henry, Convener of the Council's Education Committee, said, "This fantastic concert is the highlight of the Council's Instrumental Music Service calendar. It was a packed house last year – 2000 tickets sold out – which is an incredible achievement.

"The children have been working so hard to prepare for their special night and are preparing to bring the roof down."

Glasgow's Hidden Treasure

Venture just a few minute's walk from the city centre and you will stumble across one of Glasgow's true hidden gems, Little-Persia, within Love-Rugs, is Scotland's leading and largest specialist in unique handmade Persian and Oriental rugs.

With over 2,000 hand-knotted works of art for the floor; the selection, colours and history will transport you to the markets and bazaars of Tehran.

Little-Persia has grown over the years to host to one of the UK's most unique collections of rugs. With pieces from all over Iran (Persia), the Orient

and the Middle East there are rugs to suit almost any interior.

In-store there are small tribal weavings from as little as £95 up to perfectly woven masterpieces; meticulously knotted over the course of years by revered craftsmen, for anything up to £34,995.

Explore the colours and history on offer at Little-Persia this month and enjoy a massive 15% off everything using code*:

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* Discount can be used in-store or online, one use per customer. Offer expires 23/12/16. Not to be used with other offers.

ZOOM! New comic book service speeds onto screens

COMIC book fans in the area will delight at news of a new service allowing a range of reading materials to be accessed free of charge.

Comics Plus Library Edition is a new service which allows you to read digital graphic novels and comic books on your PC, tablet, smartphone or any web connected device free of charge.

Organised by East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture, the new comics plus service allows library members to check out titles for a seven-day loan period.

With thousands to choose from for all ages and interests and titles always available to read, the service is sure to introduce comics to a host of new fans.

To log in and create your account, visit www.edlc.co.uk/news/culture_news/comics_plus.aspx



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What do you value most in community life?

George Thomson - Volunteer Scotland

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"Me?" I value the friendship. It's a laugh."

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Value the volunteers in your community and please send them a thank you card.



Volunteer Gardener

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Thank a Volunteer

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Volunteer Scotland





Dining in Darkness and Deafening Silence

RESIDENTS are invited to give up their sense this January all in aid of Deafblind Scotland.

The Lenzie based charity, which has been offering support to deafblind Scots for more than 25 years, is proud to host a special Dining in Darkness and Deafening Silence.

Taking place in McPhabbs in Glasgow on Saturday, January 28 the unique event will offer guests an unforgettable dining experience.

So, just what exactly can guests expect?

The dedicated team will guide guests wearing eye masks into a darkened dining area at 7.30pm before inviting them to don ear defenders

and sim specs for those keen to try a more 'real' sense of deafblindness.

For the first course, guests will be requested to dine in silence for the first five minutes before being offered the chance to dine in darkness only following a tap on the shoulder.

Of course, a napkin will be at each place setting, with some spare in the centre of the table to avoid stains on clothing.

Cutlery and glassware will be placed in the customary position with anti-bacterial hand wash top-middle (guests might

want to clean their hands whilst dining - commonplace for blind individuals).

The second course will be served around 8.30pm, and

the Deafblind Scotland team will ask you to don your eye mask once again, so that you can fully appreciate the delicious taste and texture of this fabulous food blind. After 10 minutes or so, when all diners have been served and taken their first bite, they will let you know that you can take your eye masks off. Same rules will apply for dessert.

Guests are requested to keep their eye marks on throughout the duration of each course to gain a real sense of what life is like for those who are deafblind.

Speaking of the event a spokesman from McPhabbs said: "Our chefs have thought of some great dishes that show off their talents, allow folk to experience things they might not normally try and taste flavour combinations that are matched to near perfection."

For more details, check out www.deafblindscotland.org.uk



Holiday Discount Offer!

Lenzie Osteopathic Clinic is pleased to present a
Limited Time offer to celebrate the Yuletide Season
with a saving of up to a massive **40%**!

Print off the voucher below or quote XMAS22 to a member of staff
to validate the offer.

Please note:

- This offer ends on Tuesday 31st January 2017
- For ONE use per person only
- Applies ONLY to Standard and Concession rates
- Offer excludes patients of KIRSTEN POLSON
- Payment must be made at time of appointment - no prior payment
- Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discounted rate, including Prepayment Plans

Merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year!

Holiday Discount Offer - XMAS 22

This voucher entitles the recipient to an osteopathic treatment for the excellent price
of just £22!



For ONE USE ONLY, valid until 31st January 2017

www.glasgow-osteopaths.co.uk