

Newton Mearns Connect

Spring 2017



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Welcome

HELLO and welcome to the spring edition of Newton Mearns Connect.

Once again brought to you by the Herald and Times Magazine Group this small but mighty magazine is proud to be a champion of the local community.

Celebrating the best that Newton Mearns has to offer, our latest offering is packed with feel good news and events.

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

If you have a tale to tell, an event to share or even fancy a column in a future magazine don't be shy and get in touch. After all, there's nothing we love more than hearing from our readers.

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 10,000 readers what you do best.

And what's more, they're also happy to help with competitive advertising rates in our sister Connect titles as well as trusted titles including Scottish Walks and Scottish Cycling to name just a few – offering you the chance to reach people across the country.

We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to working on the next!

All images supplied by Getty Images unless otherwise stated.

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Community Contacts

Police and Emergency Services

Police Scotland:
101 (999 in emergency)

Council contacts

East Renfrewshire
Council General
Enquiries:
0141 577 3001
Council Tax Payment:
0141 577 3002
Child Protection:
Pest Control:
0141 577 3001
Housing Services:
0141 577 3714

Councillors

Newton Mearns South:
Councillor Barbara

Grant (Conservative):
0141 639 3809
Councillor Ian
McAlpine (Labour):
07890592671
Councillor Jim Swift
(Conservative):
07534515159

Newton Mearns North:
Councillor Tony
Buchanan (SNP):
07976 360398
Councillor Charlie
Gilbert (Conservative):
0141 639 2948
Councillor Elaine Green
(Labour):
01505 850732
Councillor Paul O'Kane
(Labour):
07718697115

Community

Mearns Library:
0141 577 4979
28th Glasgow
(Giffnock) Scout Group:
0141 638 0282
East Renfrewshire
Centre:
0141 258 5959

Schools

Mearns Primary
School:
0141 570 7220
St Cadoc's Primary
School:
0141 570 7340
Mearns Castle High
School:
0141 577 2300
Eastwood High School:
0141 577 2200

Isobel Mair School:
0141 570 7600
Kirktonholme Nursery
Mearnswood:
0141 639 5292

Churches

Newton Mearns Parish
Church:
0141 639 7373
Newton Mearns Baptist
Church:
0141 616 2362
Mearns Kirk Church
Hall:
0141 639 6555
St Cadoc R C Church:
0141 639 1073
Maxwell Mearns Castle
Parish Church:
0141 639 5169

If you would like your group or organisation's number included in our community contacts page please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Send the details to Maxine.McCreadie@newsquest.co.uk or Nicola.Brown@newsquest.co.uk and we'll be sure to include them in a future edition.





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MEARNS Primary has been recognised for leading the way with digital learning and teaching with a Digital School status.

The school, along with neighbouring Netherlee Primary, is one of the first in the country to be honoured with the national award.

Representatives from both schools attended a recent ceremony to receive their awards, when Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville presented the honours to the 21 schools being recognised.

The Digital Schools Award is designed to promote, encourage and reward schools that make the best use of digital technology in the classroom. Recognised by Education Scotland, the awards are also supported by HP, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Intel, including a financial commitment of £110,000 in the first year as well as the



Schools praised for digital approach

provision of practical support and resources.

Speaking of the award, Catherine Dillon Ruddy head teacher at Mearns Primary said: "Both Mearns and Netherlee primaries demonstrated, among other things, the presence of a whole school digital strategy, evidence of how digital technology is being used to enhance learning and a commitment to ongoing professional learning for teachers.

"One in nine primary schools

in Scotland, some 195 schools, have signed up to become a Digital School since the launch of the programme in September 2016.

"The programme aims to sign up 400 primary schools in Scotland to participate in its first full year."

While Netherlee head teacher Joanne Scott added: "The programme offers a real opportunity for primary schools to build on their digital capabilities.

"This prestigious accolade is

testament to the hard work and dedication of our whole school community.

"We are one of the largest schools in Scotland so we can use a wide range of technology to ensure all of our children have equal opportunity to enhance their skills development.

"This award is recognition of the quality learning and teaching experiences our staff have created in conjunction with our pupils using digital technologies."

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Developing East Renfrewshire's Young Workforce Award
sponsored by Taylor Wimpey

Community Impact Award
sponsored by
East Renfrewshire Council

Family Business Award
sponsored by CALA Homes

Excellence in Customer Service Award
sponsored by the
Avenue Shopping Centre

Most Promising New Business Award
sponsored by Barhead Travel

Excellence in Innovation Award
sponsored by George Leslie Ltd

East Renfrewshire's Best Business Award
(10 employees or less)
sponsored by Business Gateway

East Renfrewshire's Best Business Award
(11 employees or more)
sponsored by Miller Homes

Searching for the best of business

THE search is on to find inspiring businesses that illustrate the wealth of talent and enterprise in East Renfrewshire.

It comes with the launch of the 2017 East Renfrewshire Business Awards – and the clock is ticking for companies to get involved.

The application process is now open and businesses are urged to apply to promote their companies and celebrate their achievements.

Businesses of all sizes, and in all sectors operating in East Renfrewshire, can take part. The range of award has been designed to be fully accessible to all businesses. It is free to apply and companies can enter up to three categories out of the eight to choose from.

The awards, which are hosted

by East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce attract high profile industry support and this year is no different. Taylor Wimpey Homes is the principal sponsor for this year's event.

Audrey Ross, sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey West Scotland, said: "We're delighted to continue our support of the East Renfrewshire Business Awards as this year's principal sponsor, and as sponsor of the category Developing East Renfrewshire's Young Person's Workforce Award. We are fully committed to delivering new homes to both Maidenhill in Newton Mearns and Neilston, so it's an exciting time for our business in the East Renfrewshire area and a great opportunity to strengthen our links with these prestigious

regional business awards."

The closing date for entries is 5pm on April 21 with the winners announced at an awards dinner at the Busby Hotel on Thursday 8 June. Visit www.eastrenchamber.org.uk for more.

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The Clarkston shop, on Eaglesham Road, is a hidden gem. Themed on a Parisien fleamarket, all vintage mirrors and junk-shop 'finds', it has a relaxed

and easy going vibe, with time to browse and plenty of free parking on the doorstep. The Avenue store, just by M&S, is a livelier place altogether yet still manages award winning service and a huge selection of styles and price-points.

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~~~~~

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# Proud to offer a first class service

**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.

This spring look to Dyno-Rod, Glasgow's leading drainage and power

washing specialist. The team appreciate that your home is your castle and are proud to offer a service that reflects just that.

Committed to offering a friendly and professional service at all times, they are dedicated to offering a service that second to none.

Using specialist power washers, the team can transform the look and feel of mono-block for both commercial and residential clients.

What's more clients can be rest assured their paved area will look its best for the summer months to come as the team use specialist anti-

weed killer to ensure that there's nothing left lingering behind.

The process of power washing is a quick, taking just one day to complete 250 square metres.

As well as power washing, the experienced Dyno-Rod team is also respected for carrying out drainage work as well as grease management to prevent drains from clogging up.

Continually going the extra mile for clients, the Dyno-Rod team is delighted to help take the drama out of drainage.

For further information or a no obligation quote, call the team on 0141 641 0101.

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## Save the date for book signing



**BEST-SELLING crime writer Christopher Brookmyre is set to appear at The Avenue this April.**

The respected author, who is famed for penning tales including *Bedlam* and *Dead Girl Walking*, will meet fans at a book signing on Tuesday, April 25.

Fans will have the chance to speak with the Scots novelist, whose books mix comedy, politics,

social comment and action, and have his latest book signed by the man himself.

He will join guests at the shopping centre's Watersone's store from 7-8.30pm discuss *Want You Gone*, his latest book, in an event organised by Waterstone's at Primavera.

Anyone interested in attending the free event is urged to book in advance.

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## Open the door to your dream kitchen



**MAKING the decision to give your kitchen an image overhaul isn't one that's taken lightly.**

The thought of organising the design, dealing with builders and having one of the most used rooms in the home out of bounds for a week or more is enough to put anyone off.

However, with spring in full swing there has never been a better time to make your dream home a reality.

As we finally get our finances back together following the festive period and before the thrill of far flung summer adventures, now is the ideal opportunity to take the plunge and bring a new lease of life to your kitchen.

The team at Dream Doors appreciate that deciding to renovate the kitchen can be a daunting prospect and so are on hand to help make the process as simple as possible.

Forget hard sales tactics, the experienced and dedicated team is proud to offer honest advice to clients to ensure they receive the best possible service.

Whether you're looking to just give the kitchen a quick freshen up or keen for a brand

new look - the Dream Doors team is proud to help.

With a showroom opening in Shawlands this April, the team is looking forward to offering an even greater service.

Speaking to Connect, owner Ian McLachlan said: "Dream Doors is proud to offer customers Get your dream kitchen a straightforward and reliable service.

"From fitting new doors to helping with appliances and a redesign of a whole kitchen we're on hand to help.

"We work with clients every step of the way to help take their ideas, likes and preferences and turn them into a reality.

"It's about taking the time to listen to clients and ensuring the best for them - there's no hard sale or pressure."

Part of a nationwide business, Dream Doors has been transforming kitchens across the UK for 18 years.

For further information about the Glasgow south side branch like Dream Doors South Glasgow on Facebook or visit [www.dreamdoors.co.uk](http://www.dreamdoors.co.uk)



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## Newton Mearns Connect

# Blood donation drive is a chance to save a life

**NEWTON Mearns residents are being urged to help save a life this year by giving blood.**

The Scottish Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) is calling on locals to join them at a donation session this spring to help make a difference across the country.

The process of giving blood is quick and simple.

After filling in a donor health check questionnaire and having a check-up from a nurse, a donor's hemoglobin (iron) level will be tested to ensure they can actually spare a pint of blood.

Once everything is checked and in order, they will then make their donation.

Each donation takes around 10 to 15 minutes and staff aim to take around 470mls of blood - with additional samples for testing.

This may sound like a lot but is actually less than a pint in total.

Donors will have a team member with them at all times to ensure they are comfortable and happy with the process.

Every day Scottish patients receive life-enhancing or life-saving treatments using the blood donated.

Within 24 hours of a donation, blood is processed, tested and available for use and one blood donation can save or improve the lives of up to three people.

However, figures reveal that only five per cent of the population currently give blood.

Residents will have the chance to pay it forward on May 4 at Church of Broom on Broom Road East.

The SNBTS team will set up shop between 2pm and 3.45pm then again from 5.15pm until 7.30pm.

To find out more, visit [scotblood.co.uk](http://scotblood.co.uk)

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# Keep an eye out for council tax scam

**NEWTON Mearns residents are being urged to look out for a scam which claims to give people a refund on their council tax.**

The warning comes after the council's Trading Standards team received a number of reports from locals who have received an email claiming they have been issued a refund.

Residents are being reminded never to give out any bank details by email or over the phone following an unsolicited request.

The email, which appears to be sent by 'Miss Rourke' from Unity Partnership, claims that

the receiver is due a Council Tax refund and by clicking on a link and confirming personal details, the money will be credited to your bank account.

Research has found that eight per cent of people will fall victim to at least one scam in their lifetime. In extreme cases, people can lose hundreds of thousands of pounds to scams. This costs the UK economy £3.5 billion each year.

An anonymous local resident added: "I was wary when I received this email and picked up the phone to Trading Standards for advice before doing anything.



"I was called back within the hour and advised that this was a scam and to delete straight away. It's a shame because a lot of people will fall for this."

Anyone who suspects a possible scam or find out more information or to find out more information on trading standards issues should call the team on 0141 577 3782.



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**Wiltshire Farm Foods**

# Newton Mearns Connect



*PROUD: The team was recognised with the national award*

## Campaign cleans up at national awards

**A CAMPAIGN to clean up the boating pond at Rouken Glen Park has scooped a national award.**

The council took home the Successful Campaign Award at the Local Environmental Quality Awards hosted by environmental charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Celebrating the success from across the Keep Scotland Beautiful Local Environmental Quality Network, the awards recognise work in improving the cleanliness and quality of the environment.

The council's winning 'Clean Pond Healthy Ducks' initiative was a three year project to restore the popular pond.

As part of the campaign, Park Activities Rangers visited local schools to educate pupils about pond health, duck feeding and the implications of littering.

This, alongside new signage, clean ups and weed clearing, resulted in the pond being restored to a healthy, thriving home for wildlife.

Speaking of the award Donnie McManus, parks manager,

said: "We are delighted to have won this award from the Local Environmental Quality Network which further enhances the reputation of our fantastic park. It has already been recognised as UK's best and we will continue to make improvements to ensure it continues to be a much-loved attraction by all our residents and visitors."

Rouken Glen Park was named as UK's Best Park last year following a nationwide search for the country's most loved greenspace.



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## New driving laws in force

### NEWTON Mearns drivers caught using a phone behind the wheel will face harsher penalties.

The news comes as March 1 saw the number of penalty points for holding and using a mobile phone when driving increase from three to six points.

Drivers also face an increased fine of £200.

Speaking of the new law Chief Superintendent Andy Edmonston, Head of Road Policing for Police Scotland, said: "The risks associated with using a phone while behind the wheel have always been very clear.

"Any driver will be distracted by a phone call or text message as it affects the ability to concentrate and anticipate the road ahead, putting the driver and other road users at risk.

"Distraction reduces hazard perception and increases reaction times in a similar way to drink-driving, making drivers much more likely to cause deaths and injuries. Drivers who think they can multi-task are fooling themselves: research shows

98 per cent are unable to divide their time without it affecting performance.

"Talking on a phone hand-held or hands free, texting, emailing, adjusting sat navs, eating, drinking and smoking are all proven to increase crash risk.

"The law says a driver must at all times be in proper control of their vehicle. If at any time they are not they may be guilty of an offence.

"Police Scotland consistently targets these offences on a daily basis to reduce road casualties and will deal with offences detected in an appropriate manner.

"We are using this change in the law to, once again, reminding drivers that using a mobile phone while driving has always been unacceptable and even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text – and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a serious or fatal collision."

Anyone looking for information about the law and other driving campaigns, should visit [www.think.direct.gov.uk](http://www.think.direct.gov.uk)



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# Newton Mearns Connect

## What's on

Keep up to date with upcoming events in Newton Mearns and the surrounding areas with our handy what's on guide.

### EVENT: Renfrewshire Embroiderers' Guild

Location: Fairweather Hall

Date: Monday 10 April

Time: 7.30pm

Cost: Free

What's on: A warm welcome awaits anyone who is interested in textile arts. Pop in for arts, tea, coffee and cake. Keep up to date with the programme via the Renfrewshire Embroiderers Guild.

### EVENT: Funday Sunday at the Avenue

Location: The Avenue Shopping Centre

Date: Sunday 23 April

Time: 11am-4pm

Cost: Free

What's on: Funday Sunday has a fun surprise element for all the family to enjoy. It will feature a rolling roster of FREE activities from Get Crafty, Hartbeeps, face painters, Uncle Billy, caricatures to balloon modellers! Newton and Fearn will be on hand to give away balloons and other goodies. Fun for all the family!

### EVENT: Up with the birds

Location: Dams to Darnley Country Park

Date: Saturday 6 May

Time: 6-8pm

Cost: tbc

What's on: Join the countryside rangers for this walk to hear the amazing sounds of the dawn chorus. Meet at the World Buffet restaurant, Corselet Road, off Nitshill Road, Darnley G53 7RN.

### EVENT: Bug Hunt

Location: Rouken Glen Park, The Waterfall

Date: Sunday 25 June

Time: 1-3pm

Cost: tbc

What's on: Join the Activity Ranger looking for bugs and beasties in the park. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult; suitable for ages 3 and upwards. Call 0141 638 4121 for more information.

### EVENT: Bookbug 0-4 years

Location: Mearns Library

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 2pm

Cost: Free

What's on: Inspire a love of reading from an early age and spend some quality time with your child at your local Bookbug session. Spark your wee ones' imagination and let storytimes bring books, reading and learning to life.



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| SHIRTS (WASH)                | £1.50        | 5 FOR <b>£6.99</b>  |
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# First Responders are on call to offer dedicated support

### COULD you help save a life?

That's the question being asked of local residents as the Newton Mearns Community First Responders searches for new recruits.

The group is looking for people to attend 999 emergency calls as a First Responder in conjunction with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Community First Responders will be based in Newton Mearns but offer support to surrounding areas including Clarkston, Giffnock and Thornliebank.

Those interested in taking part will undertake a weekend of training lasting eight hours each day offering a chance to learn more about basic life support, incident management, basic first aid and use of defibrillation equipment.

Following training, first responders will team up with a buddy for four weeks before having the

option to go solo or continue working within a pair.

Participants will be required to volunteer 12 hours per month to ensure emergency medical help is available in a timely fashion when a 999 call is placed in the local area.

Due to the nature of the work all volunteers are required to have access to transport at all times whilst on call and if a volunteer is a non-driver they must have access to transport immediately available for duration of the shift – i.e a friend must be on call with them.

All participants must be over the age of 18 and Enhanced Disclosure Check and references will be required.

For further information email [firstrespondernm@gmail.com](mailto:firstrespondernm@gmail.com) or call 07833222857.

Alternatively like Newton Mearns Community First Responders on Facebook.



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# Nominations now open for Scotland's Dementia Awards

**DEMENTIA support groups from across the East Renfrewshire areas are invited to take part in a special awards ceremony as Scotland's Dementia Awards are now open for entries.**

The awards aim to celebrate and recognise projects and the people behind them who are going the extra mile to support people living with dementia and their families across Scottish communities.

The Awards scheme, a partnership between Alzheimer Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland, NHS Health Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council, is now in its sixth year and is calling on people to put their favourite projects into the national limelight to inspire others.

With six different categories and a special Lifetime Achievement title awarded each year, the Awards recognise the country's most innovative and ambitious projects.

Henry Simmons, Alzheimer Scotland's Chief Executive, commented: "Scotland's Dementia Awards now has a firmly established tradition of celebrating the passion and dedication of those who work to support people living with dementia and their families in services and projects up and down the country.

"We hope that 2017 will be our biggest celebratory year yet and we invite people from all sectors including health, social services and education, and also from the wider public, to enter and help us shine the spotlight on Scotland's best dementia projects.

"As well as showcasing creativity and innovation, the awards really celebrate good ideas, meaningful partnerships and acknowledge the people and colleagues working together to help us improve the day to day lives of people living with dementia across our communities, from the Scottish borders to the Highlands and Islands."

Angela Mitchell, Deputy Director of Soil Association Scotland, joint-winner of last year's Most Innovative Partnership Award category alongside Inch View Care Home, added: "We weren't sure what would happen when we

entered Scotland's Dementia Awards – we were confident that we had a great story but we didn't know if we stood a chance against some of the bigger health care projects.

"I was absolutely delighted when Inch View Care Home won the prestigious award for their innovative efforts - we were so pleased to have played a part in it. As a Scottish food and farming charity, we would love to see these kinds of activities become a normal part of older peoples' care right across Scotland. We look forward to developing further partnerships in this important area of work to make this a reality.

"We'd recommend entering the Awards to anyone, no matter how big or small the project and community – it was such a worthwhile experience and we're so glad we were part of the celebrations in 2016."

Scotland's Dementia Awards 2017 have six categories: Best Acute Care Initiative, Best Community Support Initiative, Best Dementia Friendly Community Initiative, Best Educational Initiative, Best Innovation in Continuing Care, Most Innovative Partnership.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honour to the person who daily lives out his or her commitment to dementia and is chosen by a panel of experts.

Awarded to Margaret Brown from the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) in 2016, Margaret was presented with the title for her outstanding commitment to the field of dementia care; from inspiring further generations through her work with the student nurses, right through to aiding current best practice with her research, publications and delivery of various training courses, and the key role she has played in developing and delivering Scotland's National Dementia Champions Programme.

The entrants that make it to the shortlist of Scotland's Dementia Awards 2017 will go on to attend an awards ceremony held at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel on September 21 - World Alzheimer's Day. To enter visit [www.ScotlandsDementiaAwards.org.uk](http://www.ScotlandsDementiaAwards.org.uk). Entries must be received by 5pm on 31 March 2017.

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