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Welcome!

WELCOME to the first edition of Newton Mearns Connect.



Locals treated to interactive flower show. Turn to page six for more

Our popular series of Connect magazines are brought to you by Newsquest Clyde and Forth and Herald and Times Magazines, the publishers behind trusted titles such as Barrhead News and High Flyer.

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

Our first issue is packed with stories.

From a local group's flower power walk on page 6 to news of a charity hoping to pave the way for a safer future for Newton Mearns residents on page 26, there is plenty inside to keep you in the loop with what's happening locally.

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

Until next time, Team Connect

Cover image: Rouken Glen restoration, courtesy of Mark Gibson.

Contacts

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Community contacts

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East Renfrewshire Council

General Enquiries:

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Council Tax Payment:

0141 577 3002

Child Protection:

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Pest Control:

0141 577 3001

Housing Services:

0141 577 3714

Councillors

Newton Mearns South:

Councillor Barbara Grant

(Conservative):

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(Labour):

07890592671

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(Conservative): 07534515159

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(SNP):

07976 360398

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0141 639 2948

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(Labour):

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Orchidding me? A flower walk with a difference



THE Rangers at Dams to Darnley Country Park recently led a flower show with a twist.

Leading a group on an interactive walk, the experienced team led visitors through the Darnley Mill area of the park to look at the beautiful wild flowers that are in bloom at this time of year.

Some of the flowers spotted were familiar ones like dandelions and daisies, but there were many less familiar species like broad-leaved helleborines and common spotted orchids.

From sweet smelling meadowsweet to not-so-nice smelling hedge woundwort, the public were treated to a feast for the senses.



This is just one of the walks or events that are held throughout the year at the park.

All events are free but must be booked by emailing

d2d@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or calling 0141 577 4053. Further details are on the park Facebook page or webpage at www.damstodarnley.org.



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Park looks bloomin' lovely

BURSTS of colour filled the air as thousands of people flocked to Roucken Glen Park earlier this summer.

Visitors came out in force to celebrate the completion of a four-year, £3m restoration project. It has seen much loved features given a new lease of life, new visitor interpretation signage installed and the discovery of important archaeological relics.

The celebration day featured music - both recitals in the walled garden and performances on the main stage - heritage walks, an eco-zone, traditional fairground rides, puppet shows, storytelling, croquet, giant chess, a farmers' market and festival of colour, which should see visitor figures push ever closer to the one million mark.

In a testament to the initiative, the number of visitors to the park has doubled over the life of the project, from 406,638 in 2011 (the year prior to the project) to 942,568 last year. That



places it in the number two spot in the Scottish Visitor Attraction Monitor table of Scotland's top Outdoor Nature Attractions - behind only Strathclyde Country Park.

The project attracted £2.15m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a further £1m coming from East Renfrewshire Council.

Councillor Vincent Waters said: "Roucken Glen holds a very special place in the heart of visitors and I'm thrilled to see it restored to its former glory."

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Newton Mearns Connect

New care home boosts job projects

MEARNS House, a new care home in Newton Mearns, recently opened its doors and has created employment opportunities for the area.

Having opened earlier this summer, the new addition is continuing to welcome residents and offers 24-hour nursing care and support, housing up to 68 people. Those suffering from symptoms of dementia will also find expert carers.

The new home continues to bring a significant number of jobs to the local area, with 16 roles initially created. Up to 80 employment opportunities are expected once it is at full capacity.

Gerry Hennessey, managing



director of Meallmore Ltd, said: "We're extremely proud to see our newest care home welcoming residents. We identified a need to provide high quality care in the Newton Mearns area and we look forward to bringing our award winning service to the local area."

Rebecca McLaughlin, care home manager at Mearns House, also said: "We've created a modern, luxury

home that provides first class accommodation for our residents. People are now living longer and have more complex needs and associated health issues that we have the experience to care for.

"Our first residents are settling in nicely and I look forward to welcoming more residents and creating a community atmosphere for all of those who choose to make Mearns House their home."



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A walk on the wild side

TWENTY local youngsters had reason to celebrate after successfully completing the EastRen Challenge expedition in Africa this summer.

The group's trip involved two weeks exploring Morocco. Five of the days were spent trekking in the High Atlas Mountains, including an ascent of North Africa's highest mountain Mount Toubkal at 4176m. They also visited Marrakech, an eco-village and Essaouria on the coast.

During their time in Morocco the group had responsibilities for all aspects of the expedition.

One member of the group, Rachel Saxon, 18, from Newton Mearns, said: "I loved being immersed in the culture of the country and felt a massive sense of achievement when we reached the top.

"Although there was a lot of hard work and at times some personal pressure it all disappeared during that special amazing moment when I saw the stunning views and felt the overwhelming sense of achievement.



"Throughout the trip and the year I have noticed a massive development in my confidence and communication skills. From organising fundraising events, being secretary, taking the role as leader on day two of our trip, and by surrounding myself in a completely new environment.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and experiences I have had."

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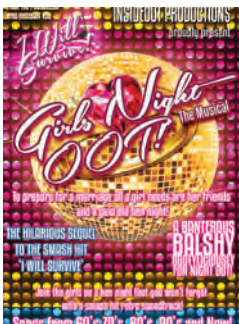
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Thursday 3 November, 7.30pm

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Saturday 1
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Prices

Standard £13
Concession £11
Student £9



Magical Mozart
by Candlelight
Saturday 5
November, 7pm

With beautiful settings, costumes, lighting, and of course candles, the European Baroque Ensemble and world class opera singers transport you back to the sumptuous past and immerse us in the wonderful music and the classical baroque world of one of the world's greatest romantic composers; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Prices

Standard: £21
Concession: £18



Dead Sheep Comedy
Friday 16 September, 8pm

Line Up
MC: Scott Gibson
Support: Keir MacAllister
Headliner: Gary Little

Prices

Standard £14
Concession £11

Dead Sheep Comedy
Friday 7 October, 8pm

Line Up
MC: Graham Mackie
Support: Phil Nichol
Headliner: Raymond Mearns

Newton Mearns Connect

What's on

Keep up to date with what's happening in Newton Mearns and the surrounding area with our handy what's on guide. From stargazing to a Sunday fun day, to a spooky Halloween night, there's lots happening to keep the whole family entertained. If you would like a future event to be mentioned on our noticeboard, don't hesitate to get in touch, email nicola.brown@newsquest.co.uk.

EVENT: Funday Sunday at the Avenue

Date: Sunday 2 October

Time: 11am-4pm

Location: The Avenue Shopping Centre

Cost: Free

What's on: Hop down to the shopping centre any Sunday to find a whole host of free activities for all the family. From crafts to face painting, caricatures to balloon modellers, there's lots on offer. Newton and Fearn will be on hand to give away balloons and other goodies.

EVENT: Stars in your eyes

Date: Friday 7 October

Time: 7-9pm

Location: Dams to Darnley Country Park

Cost: Free

What's on: Join the countryside rangers and some experts and gaze at the stars and the night sky through some astronomical telescopes. Wear suitable clothing and bring a torch and binoculars if you have them. Booking is required, call 0141 577 4053 for more information.

EVENT: Legally Blonde The Musical

Date: Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 November

Time: 7.30pm (+ 2.30pm Saturday Matinee)

Location: Eastwood Park Theatre

Cost: £12-£14

What's on: Harvard's beloved blonde takes the stage by storm in this fun, upbeat story of self-discovery. Proudly presented by Harlequin Youth Theatre, it's one not to be missed this November. For more information call 0141 577 4956.

EVENT: Spooky Saturday

Date: Saturday 29 October

Time: 5.30-7.30pm

Location: Dams to Darnley Country Park

Cost: Free

What's on: Get your Halloween thrills by joining the countryside rangers for their ghost walk followed by some fun and games. Visitors are advised to bring a torch and wear spooky clothing! To book call 0141 577 4053.

EVENT: The Jersey Notes

Date: Sunday 30 October

Time: 7.15pm

Location: Eastwood Park Theatre

Cost: £15

What's on: Let the Jersey Notes' treat you to an evening of nostalgia in aid of Crosgrove Care, as they recreate the style and sounds of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Prepare for a toe tapping evening as you take a trip down memory lane. For tickets, call 0141 577 4956.



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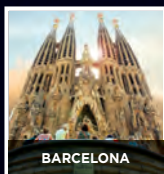
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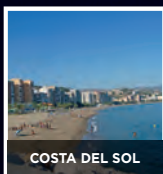
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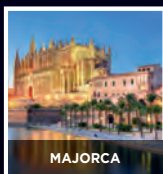
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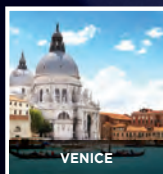
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Summer 2016 17

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The young and dynamic team are part of the reason the business is continuing to grow

and it's their dedication to clients that ensures best practice.

All work is meticulously planned, an area that won't be compromised on. Staff appreciate that with good work comes great results – something customers attest to. Hazel Jamieson has praised the team for their efforts after external wall insulation work at home.

She said: "Staff from DM Specialist Joinery were very clean and professional.

"We are delighted with the end result and would not hesitate in recommending them."

Anthony Glancey added: "From the moment they came

out to look at the job, their professionalism was second to none."

While fellow customer Jim said: "I'm delighted with the quality and also first class service on the installation.

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Peace of mind is of the utmost importance and that's what clients can expect from DM Specialist Joinery.

From the installation of a new kitchen to office refurbishments, they can rest easy knowing that they are in safe hands with the dedicated team.

Are you the type to save a life?

NEWTON Mearns residents are invited to attend the next blood donation session, taking place at Church of Broom.

On Wednesday 30 November, the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service will set up shop at the church on Broom Road East.

The event will offer the ideal opportunity for people to pay it forward and make a real difference not only in their own community, but the whole of Scotland.

The first session will kick off at 2pm and run until 3.45pm, and the second session will run from 5.15pm until 7.30pm. The dedicated team will be on hand to offer a warm welcome to all.



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 haemoglobin (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.

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

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Hidden gems rediscovered at Rouken Glen Park

IT goes to show what can be uncovered with a good tidy-up, after Rouken Glen was discovered to have a secondary waterfall, weir, flagstone path and dam walls built by the Victorians.

It was during a recent restoration project that the relics were found at the popular East Renfrewshire park.

Just a short drive from Newton Mearns, the hidden gems were revealed when work began to open up unused parts of the park earlier this year.

The historical find also brings back to life an area known as 'Lovers' Walk', which includes original exposed iron beams and wooden boards.

The discoveries allow visitors to witness remnants of the park's industrial and social heritage.

Visitors can experience the park's natural environment as it would have looked more than 200 years ago and walk in the footsteps of textile workers who worked at the Newfield printworks in what is now Rouken Glen Park.



To preserve links to the area's past the works restored the Glen Path whilst maintaining historic relics, trees and habitats, working with the natural topography of the woodland.

The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and East Renfrewshire Council as part of an overall £3.2m investment in Rouken Glen.

Local volunteers helped carry out the excavation works and studied the history of the area to uncover the site's importance.

There are now plans to introduce historical walks in this part of the park.

The newly restored Glen Path network is to the right of the main entrance to the park on Rouken Glen Road and loops all the way up to the boating pond.

Phil Richardson, project manager from Archaeology Scotland, said: "This rediscovery is of huge significance. The west side of Rouken Glen and the Glen Path area would have been the main engine room of the textile industry about 200 years ago.

"The Victorians re-routed and enhanced the burn to build a water management system that would control the flow of the water and be used to power the mill. It was important to the Crum family who owned the park and the local printworks that it was powered by nature."



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Louise Morton, the new owner since June 2016, is delighted to continue to offer high quality tuition to students.

"As a fully qualified post

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"I am passionate about education. I know that every child has a unique learning style and utilises a variety of strategies in their learning journey. The programme provided by Kip McGrath provides exactly this."

To book a FREE assessment or for further information call 0141 638 0333 or 07715675279 or email giffnocknewtonmearns@kip-mcgrath.com.

Food for thought

RECENT figures released by the Joseph Rowtree Foundation found that UK poverty costs the average taxpayer £1,200 a year.

The charity's new report, Counting the Cost of UK Poverty, by Heriot-Watt and Loughborough Universities, has estimated the annual cost of poverty at £78 billion.

In response David McAuley, Chief Executive of The Trussell Trust, says: "This new evidence points to the devastating long term impact poverty has on people's lives and the huge cost to the services supporting them and society in general.

"Tackling poverty

and inequality is not only a matter of offering compassion and hope to those in difficulty, but an economic imperative.

"Last year foodbank use reached a record high and these same community projects are now doing more than ever before to run other services, such as debt and money advice, cooking skills and fuel vouchers, seeking to prevent people falling into a crisis where they are unable to eat.

To do your bit and help the cause, the East Renfrewshire Foodbank are always looking for volunteers and food donations. Whether you're



giving out food to people in crisis at a foodbank centre or helping sort clothes for the charity shops, the foodbank relies on volunteers giving their time.

Non-perishable food, including tinned vegetables and tinned meat, powdered milk and toiletries are always appreciated.

The East Renfrewshire foodbank can be found at United Reformed Church, Authurlie Street, Barrhead, Glasgow, G78 2RB.

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- Newton Mearns
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- Darnley

Parent review

My daughter Heather comes here for maths tuition for S2 level with her tutor Susan. She was doing ok in Maths but lacked confidence and wanted to make sure she got to do National 5 Maths and had a few low marks in tests throughout the year. She has sailed through to Nat 5 and at parents' evening last week, her teacher said she was doing great and in the 90% range and had improved dramatically in past 6 months. We are having a break for the Summer but will definitely be back in August.
Mrs McHugh

Kip McGrath Education Centre Giffnock/Newton Mearns

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Louise Morton, the new centre owner since June 2016, is delighted to continue to offer high quality tuition to all students.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

The key to pawfectly happy pets

Vets4Pets Newton Mearns is locally owned and run by vet Michelle Barclay BVMS MRCVS.

Michelle was born and bred in the outskirts of Glasgow and still lives in the area with her husband and two mischievous cats Alfie and Louie.

In the last three years since opening Newton Mearns has cared for thousands of local pets with everything from their regular vaccines and neutering to surgical and orthopaedic work.

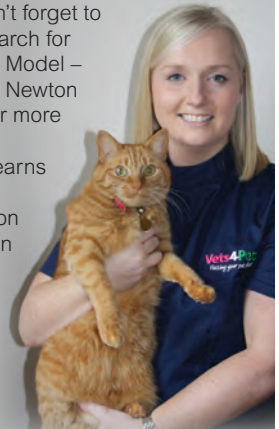
They also offer workshops to support local pet owners to skill up on pet first aid, nutrition and a range of other topics – open to non-clients too.

Michelle and her team know that taking your pet to the vets can sometimes be challenging for pet parents so the surgery

opens late during the working week.

Pop in and meet Michelle and all the team; they'll be happy to give you a tour of the facilities. Don't forget to ask them about their search for Scotland's Next Pet Top Model – take a look at Vets4Pets Newton Mearns on Facebook for more information.

Vets4Pets Newton Mearns can be found at Unit 11 Greenlaw Village, Newton Mearns, G77 6GR. Open Mon – Friday 8.30 – 7.00, Saturday 9.00 – 12.00. Speak to the team or make an appointment on 0141 639 3636.



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Barrhead Travel is no ordinary travel agent. With a UK-wide network of 61 locations, a team of over 900 knowledgeable worldwide travel specialists and 41 years of experience in the travel industry, it's no wonder we've been voted the UK's number-one travel agent for the past seven years. Plus, every holiday we sell is fully financially protected, leaving you free to relax and look forward to your well-earned getaway.

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Kerb appeal

HOPING to pave the way for a safer future, East Renfrewshire Good Causes (ERGC) is appealing for safer pavements on behalf of residents of a local, semi-sheltered housing complex in Newton Mearns.

Propelled by their ethos, which encourages us all to "Love our Neighbours", ERGC are hoping to highlight an access problem causing many elderly people and parents with strollers to risk their safety.

Russell Macmillan, founder of ERGC, started noticing many elderly residents walking on local roads instead of pavements. He said: "With an increasingly ageing local population, it is essential that our pavements and kerbs which allow basic daily tasks like going to the shops, take account of difficulties faced by the elderly, parents with prams and mobility impaired disabled people.

"For the elderly, both uneven and the camber on the pavement can be a real disincentive, and can lead to many using the roads instead, which poses a real potential danger".

"The things we take for granted can become more problematic with the ageing process. As a registered blind man myself, I am only too aware of how easy it is to take things for granted, as I did prior to losing my eyesight, to its current 4% level.

"With ageing often comes difficulty with balance, strength and an increase likelihood of falls, which can be disastrous for the elderly, and lead to hospital admission, becoming housebound not to mention the psychological loss of confidence. With this in mind, Russell approached local labour councillor Ian McAlpine, to look into this issue on behalf of the many residents potentially affected both now and in the future."

Ian McAlpine, said: "When you walk the route



with a stroller, you quickly realise the obstacles that our mobility impaired local resident's face when carrying out such a basic daily task like going shopping.

"In my role as labour councillor for Newton Mearns South, I am naturally delighted to spearhead this latest ERGoodCauses appeal to improve access for my constituents, which will raise the local standard".

One of the many local residents who mobilises with the help of a stroller is ex-serviceman, Mr David McGill, now in his early 90s. He spoke up on behalf of other residents of Shaw Court: "It is good to see councillor McAlpine trying to help improve the lives of some of our senior members who live independently in the community".

Do you have a story you would like to share?

we want to hear from you...

Email: nicola.brown@newsquest.co.uk | Telephone: 0141 302 7741

NEWTON MEARNS INSPIRING OFFICE LOCATIONS

Kirkhill House Office Park offers the ideal “out of town” modern office solution for small and medium sized businesses. It is located in Newton Mearns, approximately 10 miles south of Glasgow City Centre, just minutes off the M77 and A726, with excellent transport connections, and plenty of local amenities. The mix of traditional and modern open plan offices range from 140 - 2,000 sq ft, set in an inspiring working environment - beautiful, mature gardens, with secure electric gated entry and generous private parking.

For over 20 years C W Cameron Limited, a privately owned local property business, are proud to have been letting offices to local businesses in East Renfrewshire and also for larger companies as regional headquarters.

Recent arrivals include Bonhams Auctioneers and Bright Care at Home. Bonhams chose to move out of Glasgow City centre to acquire the prestigious first floor suite within the main house extending to 1,426 sq ft. Bright Care have chosen a contemporary suite of 1,115 sq ft within the Steading Building, where one freshly refurbished suite still remains available, extending to 818 sq ft, with 6 car spaces.

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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 largest and leading specialist in unique handmade Persian and Oriental rugs. With over 2,000 hand-knotted works of art for the floor on sale; the selection, colours and history will transport you to the markets and bazaars of Tehran.

Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey and China there are rugs to suit almost any interior. In-store there are tribal weavings from as little as £95 up to perfectly woven masterpieces; meticulously knotted over the course of years by revered craftsmen, for as much as £34,995.

Explore the colours and history on offer at Little-Persia this month and enjoy a 5% discount by showing this article.

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Brintons



Tuck into authentic Italian

A traditional Italian restaurant set within the heart of Glasgow's southside, the team at Babbo Seasonal Italian are delighted to launch their new menu.

Set within a stylish restaurant designed to provide diners with a comfortable and slick dining experience, Babbo are pleased to showcase an updated menu. Serving up fresh Italian food, they're proud to cater to all budgets.

The present owners opened the doors to the restaurant earlier this year, taking over the space formerly home to Bar Milano.

With a passion for food, they aim to provide locals and visitors alike with sumptuous dishes that serve those dining out on a budget as well as others looking to splurge.



Headed up by general manager Roberto, a quick favourite with locals and former manager at a popular West End eatery, the team have already gained a loyal customer base.

Whether you're looking to dine out for less or enjoy a meal accompanied by champagne and wine, Babbo are happy to accommodate.

From Monday-Friday from 12-5pm, pop in to enjoy their new 'Beat the Clock' menu.

Serving up two delicious, freshly prepared dishes for only £6.95, there's no excuse not to treat yourself. Choose from classic starters with a modern twist like the bruschetta served on sourdough bread, or warming mains such as the Spezzatino stew.

Alternatively, from Monday-Friday from 5-7pm, Saturday from 12-6pm and Sunday from

12-7pm, the 'Early Evening' menu is sure to delight diners. With one course just £7.95, two courses £10 and three courses costing just £12, you can treat yourself without a hefty bill at the end.

Tasty options including mussels, cannelloni, pizza and beer battered haddock to name just some of the meals available.

Diners will also find plenty of fresh fish dishes, gluten free pizza and pasta options, and melt-in-your-mouth desserts gracing the menu. Inside, a deli shop serving Babbo's own wines and olive oils adds to the restaurant's charm.

For special occasions, the upstairs private dining area is an ideal spot to celebrate. Whether it's a birthday, anniversary, christening or catch up with friends, let the staff treat you and your guests to a wonderful evening.

Find Babbo at 2 Mains Avenue, Giffnock, Eastwood and call 0141 620 0033 for more information.



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