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Welcome

WELCOME to the Autumn 2018 edition of Newton Mearns Connect.

Brought to you by the Herald and Times Magazine Group, this community magazine is proud to shine a light on the people, stories and events from the area.

Inside this edition we bring the recent achievements of a local triathlete who is doing the town proud on

page eight.

There's also news of a philanthropist chef's committment to helping Glasgow's most deprived children on six, a what's on guide on 14, some autumn interior decoration tips on 30, plus much more.

If you have any stories or events you would like highlighted in a future issue, do get in touch.

We hope you enjoy the latest edition and look forward to working on the next.



Local pupils test out the latest technology. See page 8

Until next time, Team Connect

Contacts

Editorial

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Councillors

Newton Mearns South: Councillor Caroline Bamforth (SNP): 07388 859264 Councillor Barbara Grant (Conservative): 0141 639 3809

Councillor Jim McLean (Conservative) 07388 859263 Councillor Jim Swift (Conservative): 07534515159

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Community

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

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Chef gives food for thought after feeding hungry kids

A Newton Mearns resident and former city restaurateur is on a mission to help feed Glasgow's schoolchildren.

Craig Johnson sprang into action after becoming frustrated hearing reports of food being thrown away while children in the city went hungry.

As the man behind the former Loop restaurants on Bath Street and Ingram Street, he rallied together a chef and the help of an unlikely team, including his sisterin-law and a student, to help get his plan off the ground.

During the Easter holidays the team managed to provide meals for around 2,000 children.

And, thanks to a partnership

with charity Achieve More Scotland and a Skypark-donated kitchen, the newly formed Launch Foods travelled to summer clubs across Glasgow to feed another 7,500 kids.

Craig recently told Connect's sister publication the Evening Times: "I'm annoyed that I have to do this to feed kids, I'm really sad Glasgow is in this situation where the need is there."

To allow the project to take off, Skypark donated space, financial support and a vehicle to turn around a working kitchen in a week.

Launch Foods, a not-forprofit enterprise, preps 350 free children's meals every day and loads up its truck to travel to the city's worst-off areas.

He added: "I know what an empty fridge looks like and I just thought in this day and age this has to stop."

Launch aims to provide meals for youngsters in a fun way and without the stigma often felt at foodbanks, which, he says, children feel when attending foodbanks with their families.

It has proved to be such a success that Craig's team are to partner up with Glasgow City Council in the coming school term to bring the service to five schools throughout the East End – and they're keen to see it continue to grow.







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Pupils from St Matthew's hold a "virtual reality" anti bullying day using special glasses.

Pupils reach new heights with headset technology

Newton Mearns schools are taking advantage of East Renfrewshire Council being one of the first local authorities in the UK to provide virtual reality headsets for every school.

The £250,000 initiative will provide more than 900 ClassVR headsets to be used at all 30 of the areas primary and secondary schools.

East Renfrewshire Council said it is the first local authority in the UK to make this type of commitment to virtual reality.

The move comes after a pilot project showed "a significant increase in engagement and knowledge retention" from pupils using the headsets.

Designed by educational technology company Avantis, the devices give pupils access to hundreds of virtual and augmented reality activities.

Councillor Paul O'Kane, East Renfrewshire's education convener, said: "We are committed to providing the best learning experiences possible for all our pupils. By investing in this kind of immersive technology, it will provide our children with experiences and sensations that they may never experience in reality and brings learning to life in a way that ignites their imagination.

"As the first local authority in the UK to make this commitment to virtual reality, there is no doubt East Renfrewshire will continue to be at the very forefront of digital learning in the country.

"Combined with traditional teaching methods, these headsets will enhance our pupils' learning

experiences and push them to new heights."

The council has said "full and comprehensive" training will be provided to school staff to help them get the most out of the new technology.

Mr O'Kane added: "This initiative will equip our young people for the increasingly digitised world in which we live and I'm sure the benefits will be fantastic."

Nik Tuson, chief executive officer of Avantis Education, added: "We are delighted to be a part of this ground-breaking roll-out by East Renfrewshire."

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Young athlete races to victory in Australia

A local triathlete was in fine form as she battled to an elite junior silver medal at the 2018 ITU World Triathlon Grand Final on the Gold Coast.

Frin Wallace from Newton Mearns knows the Australian course well after competing for Scotland at the Commonwealth Games there in April and took the lead during the bike stage and looked in a good position as the 5km run got underway.

But eventual winner Cecilia Ramirez Alavez of Mexico raced through the field, overtaking Wallace despite being 31 seconds behind at the start.

The 20-year-old Scot, who also represented Great Britain on the track at the IAAF World U20 Championships in Finland at the start of the summer.



was thrilled with her medal

She said: "I definitely can't be disappointed because my result is so much more than I expected this year.

"I couldn't be happier with how it went. I knew I was in good form coming into this race but it was nerve racking to be on the start line, so I kept my trust in what I know I have done to prepare and it paid off."

The well-deserved silver capped off a big week for Wallace who was also shortlisted for the Sir Peter Heatly Trophy and the title of Young Athlete of the Year at the 2018 Team Scotland Scottish Sports Awards



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Developer has sights on Newton Mearns for homes

BARRATT Developments Scotland has announced plans to build nearly 4,000 new homes after acquiring new sites for developments. including land at Malletsheugh Farm, Newton Mearns,

The housebuilder has acquired sites from as far north as Inverness, down to the central belt. The 14 new sites will deliver a total of 2,560 homes in a bid to meet arowing demand for new homes, according to Barratt.

The housebuilder is also planning to acquire another ten

sites in Scotland throughout the rest of 2018, with a further 1.428 new homes.

Douglas McLeod, managing director for Scotland commented. "Demand for good quality homes in Scotland shows no signs of slowing, in line with steadily arowing population.

"In order to try and meet the demand evervone involved in Scotland's housebuilding industry, from the planners through to the housebuilders. needs to ensure that the system is fit for purpose so that we, and other housebuilders like us, are in a position to meet the demand with adequate supply.

"For our part, we are continuing to invest in Scotland, acquiring new sites and building homes in popular places where people want to live. The good news is that we're seeing an increase in the number of locations across Scotland which have become desirable places to live. helping to foster the growth of new communities while at the same time stimulating local economies."



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WHAT'S ON

Keep up to date with all the events going on in and around your area with our handy what's on guide.

EVENT: FRIGHT NIGHTS AT **GREENBANK GARDEN**

Location: Greenbank Garden Date: Saturday, 27 October Time: 6:45pm, 8pm, 9:15pm Cost £12

WHAT'S ON:

Only for the brave and for over 12s, this event is a 45 minute fright fest. The ancient house, walled gardens, dark woods and tales of an extremely disturbing past provide the perfect recipe for the scariest event of the year. Dress for the outdoors and come discover what lurks in the shadows.

EVENT: THE STOATS CREEPY CRAWL

Location: Crathes Castle, Garden and Estate Date: Saturday 27- Sunday 28 October Time: 10am Cost: Children £5. Adults free

WHAT'S ON:

Get set for a weekend of family fun with the Stoats Creepy Crawl taking place at 15 spine-chilling sites throughout Scotland. Put on your bravest face as you follow the spooky trails. solve the puzzles and try out terrifying tasks including Apple Dooking, Grave Grabbing and the Enormous Neep Heap before you 'quise' to claim your prize.

EVENT: FANTASTIC BEASTS: CRIMES OF **GRINDELWALD PARTY**

Location: Waterstones The Avenue Date: Friday, 16 November Time: 7pm- 8:30pm Cost: £2

WHAT'S ON:

Join a spellbindingly fun event at Waterstones as they launch the latest book in the Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them. series 'The Crimes of Grindelwald'. The event will include having a magical ball on Friday 16 November at the Primavera bistro from 7pm - 8:30pm to celebrate. Take part in a guiz, test your skills with a muggle guidditch, visit some owls and try some butterbeer.

EVENT: FIINGI WALK

Location: Bouken Glen Park Date: Saturday, 27 October Time: 10am- 1pm Cost: Free

WHAT'S ON:

Forage and learn to identify different fungi species, Learn which ones are safe and which to avoid in this great Autumn walk. This free event is a great excuse to get the kids outside and keep them active before winter arrives. Let your children become botanists for the day and see who can find the most unusual shape of fungi.

EVENT: CROOKFUR, GREENFARM & MEARNS VILLAGE COMMUNITY **COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING**

Location: Fairweather Hall Date: Thursday, 8 November Time: 7pm Cost: Free

What's on:

Come along to the monthly meeting of Crookfur. Greenfarm and Mearns Village Community Council.

At the local meeting you will have the opportunity to raise concerns and have your voice heard on local issues. Join your community and voice any of your concerns which will be represented back to East Renfrewshire Council.



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The community needs you!

Have your say on local issues at the next Crookfur. Greenfarm and Mearns Village Community Council monthly meeting.

The three remaining council meetings for this year will take place on Thursday, 11 October, Thursday, 8 November and Thursday, 13 December with a 7pm start

Monthly meetings offer the opportunity to raise concerns and vote on issues relating to the community.

Whatever issues you'd like to raise - perhaps you're fed up of potholes, want to query a new development, think the public bins need emptying more frequently or think there's too much dog fouling in the area and more signs are needed, this can be addressed at the meeting.

If you think improvements could be made and want to add your voice into the mix, the community council will listen to and represent your views to East Renfrewshire Council. The events are open to the



public and free to attend.

Currently there are three representatives for the Crookfur neighbourhood, two for the Greenfarm neighbourhood and no representatives from the Mearns Village and Westacres neighbourhood area. If you would like to put yourself forward, email cgmvcommunitvcouncil@gmail.com to find out more.

The meetings take place at Fairweather Hall. Barrhead Road, Newton Mearns,



Show your support with pink

A dash of pink has been added to the East Renfrewshire MP's wardrobe to show support for an annual fundraising drive.

Paul Masterton is among 200 parliamentarians at Westminster backing the Wear it Pink campaign organised by Breast Cancer Now.

The Conservative politician is encouraging people in the area to wear something pink on Friday, October 19, and raise money for breast cancer research.

Mr Masterton said: "Breast cancer is still the most common form of cancer in the UK. Each year around 11,500 women and 80 men lose their lives to the disease.

"That's why I'm so passionate



about encouraging everyone in East Renfrewshire to take part in Wear it Pink Day on October 19."

The fundraising drive coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, with organisers hoping this will highlight the urgent need for more research into the disease.

Joining Mr Masterton to highlight the fundraising drive was Olympian Donna Fraser, who retired from professional athletics after she was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2009, aged just 36.

Baroness Delyth Morgan, chief executive of Breast Cancer Now, said: "We are really grateful for the enthusiasm and support shown by the MPs at Westminster.

"We hope that, by wearing pink, Paul will encourage his constituents in East Renfrewshire to get involved and fundraise in their homes, schools or workplaces to help us continue to fund world-class research into this devastating disease."

For more information about how to get involved, go online at www.wearitpink.org/signup.





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IND GUY





Get ready for the chance to eniov some tee-rific night time golf this autumn.

The opportunity to golf under the stars will be on offer at Fast Renfrewshire Golf Club in Newton Mearns in November.

For anvone wanting to experience teeing off with a twist. the night golf event will be taking place on Friday, November 9, and teams of four are invited along to take part in a unique game across six holes.

It's time to embrace your competitive spirit, as there will be prizes for the top three teams. with the best two scores in each team counting towards the final score.

Tickets are £24 per person which includes a buffet dinner

starting at 6pm. The first game will be at 7pm.

Family and friends are encouraged to head along and watch from the clubhouse.

All non-players can pay £4 for the buffet.

Sign-up sheets are available at the club bar and more information can be found by calling 01355 500256.





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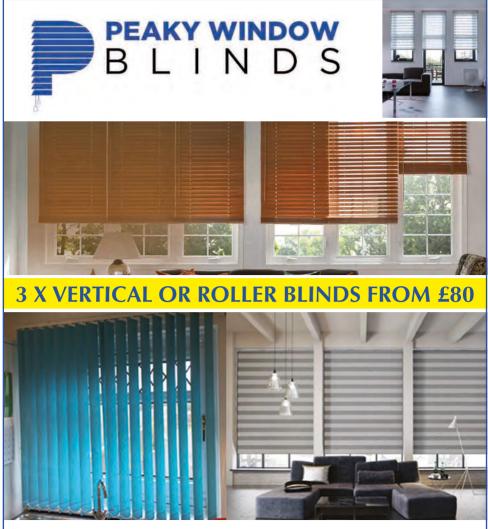
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A wellie good time for kids

A WHIMSICAL adventure is set to take place at Fastwood Park Theatre next month featuring bobble hats, scarves and tents that have a life of their own plus, lots of fun in wellies!

'Four Go Wild In Wellies' is a brand new show for youngsters aged three to five, from Independance 4. Scotland's inclusive professional dance company.

A playful look at how friendships are built, broken and mended,



it features music and dance to engage young minds.

The show was created with the company by director Anna Newell, composer David Goodall and choreographer Stevie Prickett, who have created work for vounger audiences which has toured as far afield as South Africa and New York.

The event will be held at Carmichael Hall in Eastwood Park from 11am to 1pm on October 18

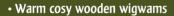
Standard tickets cost £8, with concessions available for £5. and can be purchased by calling 0141 5774956 or visiting www. eastwoodparktheatre.co.uk.





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Weird and wacky talents need apply

Does East Renfrewshire have talent? We now have the chance to find out as people from the region who long for their 15 minutes of fame are being given the chance to become television stars.

Producers of Britain's Got Talent are hitting the road again in search of impressive acts for their new series.

The team will be based at the Buchanan Galleries, in Glasgow, from 11am until 4pm on Saturday, October 20, and are inviting people from East Renfrewshire to go along.

A spokesperson for the hit ITV show said: "If you think you've got a talent which can impress and



entertain, now is the time to show us what you've got.

"Successful acts will then be in with a chance of securing a place at one of the judges' auditions in 2019.

"The show is open to any performer of any age, with any talent – all you need is a skill and star quality which you think will impress.

"Anything goes, from magicians to comedians, drag acts to singers and acrobats to animal stars.

"Anyone can apply. There is no age limit and we are looking for all kinds of talents, so if you feel you have something special to show us, no matter what it is, then make sure you apply.

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Your chance to save a life

Locals are being urged to help save a life by giving blood at one of the events being organised across East Renfrewshire.

There will be an opportunity to give blood at two sessions at Clarkston Halls on Sunday, October 21, from noon to 3.30pm, or Monday, October 22, from 2pm to 3.30pm or 5pm to 7.30pm.

Alternatively, people can head along to St Thomas' Church Hall in Neilston which will also host a session on Monday, November 19, from 4pm to 7pm.

Sessions will be held in Newton Mearns at Church of Broom at the start of 2019, on Wednesday, January 23. The two slots will run from 2-3.30pm and 5-7.30pm.

Only three per cent of people in Scotland give blood, despite the country having a constant need for donors, as blood cannot be stockpiled.

Within a day, your donation will be ready to save a life.

People need blood after trauma, general surgery,

childbirth or to support cancer and leukaemia treatment. By giving blood at least once a year. people can make a big difference.

To find out more about giving blood, if you're eligible and to sign up visit www.scotblood.co.uk

People can also follow @givebloodscot on Twitter and visit the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service page on Facebook.





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Public in favour of creating a new leisure complex in parks

Parks in Newton Mearns are expected to be considered as the new home of a potential £27million leisure complex.

Results of a six-week consultation found more than half of respondents were in favour of creating a new state-of-the-art Eastwood centre.

Residents were given the chance to save the existing facility in Giffnock for £49,000 per year, but 54 per cent voted for a new centre instead.

A report by Andrew Cahill, director of environment, said: "The consultation generated one of the highest response rates to any consultation exercise carried out by the council.

"There was a clear desire for a new. larger facility on a new site. In total, 1,864 respondents voted option D as first preference, giving it more than the other three options combined."

Option D is a proposal to build a new facility to replace the current Eastwood Leisure Centre at a cost of £27.69m.

The new centre would be almost three times the

size of the existing complex, with the potential for a competition-size pool.

Plans are also expected to include a gvm. changing facilities, badminton courts, two studios and outdoor five-a-side pitches plus possible space for a conference suite, play area, library and staff facilities.

Councillors are expected to consider seven sites for the new centre. Sites include Broomburn Park in Newton Mearns, Woodfarm Pavilion and playing fields in Giffnock, Overlee Pavilion and playing fields in Clarkston, Braidbar, Rouken Glen Park in Giffnock. Shawwood Park in Newton Mearns and Eastwood Park.

East Renfrewshire MP Paul Masterton and Eastwood MSP Jackson Carlaw have voiced their opposition to any plans to build the new centre within Broomburn or Shawwood parks.

Renfrewshire Council Fast launched the consultation earlier this year after Eastwood Leisure Centre was deemed to be reaching the end of its natural lifespan.

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