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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of West End Connect.

Brought to you by the Herald and Times' Magazine Group, *Connect* is proud to bring the latest news, events and features from the local area.

As the trees shed the last of their leaves, all thoughts turn to winter and the lead up to Christmas. There is plenty going on throughout the month to get involved in, turn to page 12 for a round up of events happening locally to you.

We also hear of a brand new festival set to take place at various venues in and around the West End, find out more on page 14.

As well as the latest community news we bring you a host of features to browse. On page 26 we reveal hacks on how to utilise small garden space. We also serve up some advice on ways to embrace this season's geometric trend on page 30.



Fresh trends to wrap up in this season, page 24

Until next time,
Team Connect

Contacts

Editorial

If you have a story that you would like to be included in a future issue of West End Connect contact:

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Sun keeps shining for Luca

Young jazz singer Luca Manning's biggest fan is his granny.

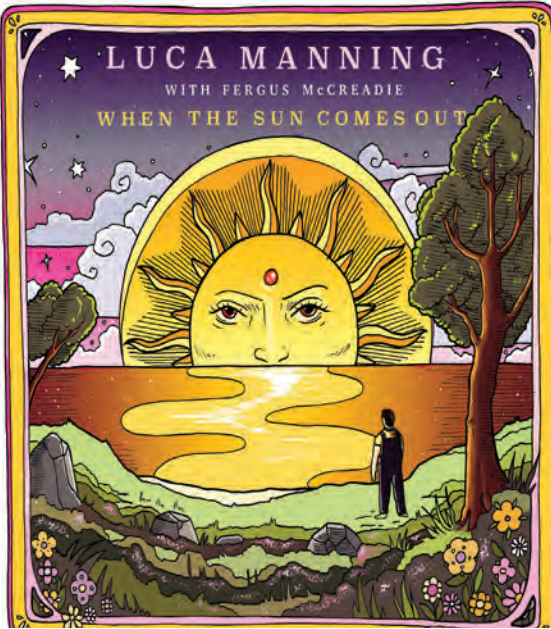
Better known to the rest of us as Anita Manning, the Glaswegian antiques expert from TV's *Bargain Hunt*, she has helped nurture his talent over the years, and even given him tips on performing and dealing with nerves.

"Eating bananas is her top tip for an energy boost," laughs the 20-year-old singer, a former pupil of Hillhead High School.

If you haven't heard of Luca you will soon, the winner of a Rising Star title at the 2018 Scottish Jazz Awards now has a debut CD, *When the Sun Comes Out*.

According to Luca, his future always lay in music, though he only discovered jazz relatively recently.

"I was in a pop/rock band playing ukulele and writing sad songs with four chords," he says. "I was in a choir in first year – I had a high voice and had to sing with the sopranos. The school had a fantastic,



dedicated music department and there was always an outlet for music."

By the time Manning was taking piano lessons, he was encouraged by his piano teacher to sing.

Weekly jazz workshops run by the Strathclyde Youth Jazz Orchestra followed, with tutoring by pianist Alan Benzie.

He helped the youngster with auditions and prescribed listening material.

Now midway through the four-year jazz course at Guildhall School of

Music and Drama in London, Manning has supported Georgie Fame and Ruby Turner.

Fans will be delighted to hear that his debut CD is an accurate reflection of what he does in a gig.

He says: "There is no theme to the album but the songs are connected in a way because there are themes of home, identity and love."

When the Sun Comes Out is available now.



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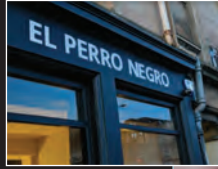
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Burger of the Year winners open in Woodlands

THE restaurant chain credited with creating the UK's burger of the year has opened a second eatery in the Woodlands area.



It comes just 18 months after El Perro Negro opened its first permanent space in Finnieston.

Earlier this year El Perro Negro took the UK Burger of the Year title for its infamous Top Dog at the National Burger Awards, defeating competition from Gordon Ramsay's Bread Street Kitchen and some of the leading burger restaurants in the country.

The chain has pledged to source more ingredients from local organic suppliers for the new venue.

Founder Nick Watkins said: "We're really excited about opening our new venue.

"It's a massive milestone and both myself and business partners, Peter McKenna and Ivan Stein,

are delighted to see all the team's hard work come to fruition.

"The support from customers over the last five years, since we started out as a small pop-up, has been overwhelming and we can't wait to welcome everyone at Woodlands."




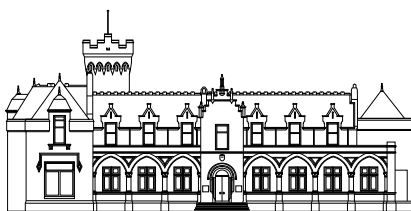
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Volunteers in the spotlight

More than 80 years of volunteering is celebrated in a new community exhibition at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Compassion in Crisis charts the work of Royal Voluntary Service and its volunteers, focusing on the organisation's role from wartime to recent years.

Volunteers were there at pivotal moments in history, including the Lockerbie disaster, and over the years have supported older people locally at lunch clubs and social clubs.



They collected salvage and distributed ration books during the Second World, at all times offering comfort and compassion in crisis.

Originally set up in 1938 as WVS (Women's Voluntary Services), after the Home Secretary asked Stella, Lady Reading, to form a nationwide organisation to assist local authorities recruit women into the Air Raid Precautions movement and help civilians during and after air raids.

In the early days in Glasgow, women volunteers supported the Home Front to help win the war.

Over the years the charity's work has grown to provide volunteer support in communities across the country.

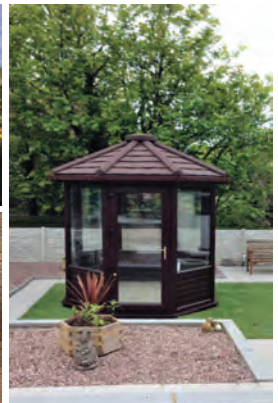
Running until January 31, Compassion in Crisis chronicles eight decades of Royal Voluntary Service in the city. Go along to see documents, photographs, objects and film from Royal Voluntary Service's Heritage Collection.



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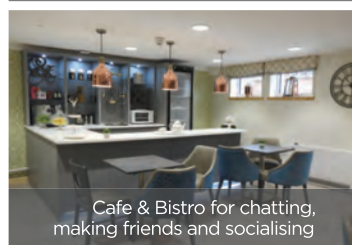
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WHAT'S ON

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

EVENT: GLASGLOW

Location: Glasgow Botanic Gardens
Date: Friday, 25 October - Sunday, 10 November
Time: See event website
Cost: Adults £14, Children £9

What's on: Step through the portal and discover nine incredible worlds. Expect a magical 60-minute journey that's bigger, better and more interactive than ever before; a street food village; and a seriously impressive bar to cosy up with a drink and an unparalleled view.



EVENT: CAROLE - THE MUSIC OF CAROLE KING

Location: Kings Theatre, Glasgow
Date: Sunday, 17 November
Time: 1pm
Cost: £15.90

What's on: With a cast of the UK's finest musicians, singers and dancers, Carole tells the story of the music of Carole King, from its early beginnings in New York in that hotbed of creativity that was the Brill Building to life in LA, The Troubadour Club and the singer-songwriter movement of early 70's California. This incredible journey through the music that defined an era will have you on your feet and dancing in the aisles.

EVENT: FARMERS MARKET

Location: Mansfield Park, Partick
Date: Saturday, 9 & Saturday, 23 November
Time: 10am-2pm
Cost: Free

What's on: Bringing a taste of rural Scotland, the farmers market gives residents access to a diverse range of affordable, healthy and locally produced food. The emphasis of these markets is to help local producers and processors sell their goods directly to the public. You'll find a wide variety of seasonal vegetables, fresh fruit, quality meat, free range eggs, bread, cakes, cheese and fresh street food to be eaten on site.

EVENT: THE GREAT WESTERN FESTIVAL

Location: Various
Date: Saturday, 23 November
Time: 12.30pm
Cost: £28

What's on: The Great Western will host over 50 incredible, innovative live acts (global, local and UK-wide) across several specially-curated stages throughout the west end of Glasgow, from nearby community spaces such as Burnbank Bowling Club, The Glue Factory and Maryhill Community Central Halls to more established venues such as The Hug & Pint, Óran Mór and QMU, as well as the beautiful Mackintosh Queen's Cross Church.

EVENT: SPARKLE HORSE PUB QUIZ

Location: Sparkle Horse, Downhill Street
Date: Every Monday
Time: 7.30pm
Cost: Free

What's on: Gather friends and family for an incredibly hard but fun pub quiz. A group of regulars do battle every week with the pub's own team hosting the quiz. The winner gets a £50 bar tab, second place gets £25 and there's a bottle of wine for third. No matter your score and how many times you curse yourself after a question, the atmosphere is always relaxed and welcoming.



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New music and arts winter festival will amplify venues

The area is gearing up for a brand new multi-venue music and arts winter festival set to hit some of our favourite spots around the West End.

The Great Western will host more than 50 live acts across several specially-curated stages, from community spaces such as Burnbank Bowling Club, The Glue Factory and Maryhill Community Central Halls to more established venues such as The Hug & Pint, Òran Mór and QMU, as well as the Mackintosh Queen's Cross Church.

Glasgow indie heavyweights, The Pastels will also be curating their own programme at Maryhill Community Central Halls.

Other acts confirmed include Sacred Paws, above, Malcolm Middleton, below, of Arab Strap and Teenage Fanclub's Gerry Love.

Malian desert blues collective Songhoy Blues will return to Glasgow following a series of sell-out shows as part of BBC 6 Music Festival at the Barrowlands in 2017.

The idea behind the event, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 23, was to celebrate "under used and under appreciated" spaces in the area as well as Glasgow's strong community spirit.

As well as live music, The Great Western will also be working closely with local restaurants and bars in the area to offer attendees the chance to sample



some of the finest food and drink on offer, with veggie, vegan and reasonably priced options available.

There will also be a wide variety of community workshops on offer too, giving visitors the opportunity to try their hand at a new skill, or simply sharpen an old one.

Go to gwfest.com for tickets, full festival information and updates.



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Kelvinbridge one of world's coolest places to live

A west end area has been voted alongside Tokyo, Los Angeles, Berlin and Bangkok as one of the world's most exciting neighbourhoods.

The list in Time Out looks at new venues, cost of living and the best cultural experience.

Glasgow's historic Kelvinbridge was placed 37th in the top 50.

From the scenic riverside footpath beneath the Kelvin Bridge to the towering glass panels of the Botanic Gardens, it's no wonder the area captured the eyes - and hearts - of Glaswegians and those behind the list.

The student-friendly hub was also highlighted for all things retro, taking in its vibrant scene of vintage fashion, classic books and well-worn vinyl.

Food and drink also influenced the decision of many, with Time Out recommending riverfront craft beer bar Inn Deep and traditional pub The Doublet.

Indy music station LP Radio was also mentioned for its record shop-turned-studio.

More than 27,000 people across the world marked Kelvinbridge worthy of the list. Other neighbourhoods voted for include Arroios in Lisbon, which managed to grab the top spot, as well as Shimokitazawa in Tokyo, Historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles and Astoria in New York.

A spokeswoman for Glasgow City Council said: "The diversity of our neighbourhoods is increasingly appealing to international visitors who are looking for authentic travel experiences and want to live like a local."



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Hillhead pupils study Highers a year early

West End school pupils are in the fast lane when it comes to studying for exams.

Under a radical new curriculum model taken up by Hillhead High School, pupils capable of studying Highers start them a year early, sit them over two years instead of one and bypass National 5s altogether.

According to Karen McAlaney, the school's headteacher, the idea is to reduce the burden of assessment on pupils and create more time for deeper learning, both key founding principles of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

She said: "In 2008, Hillhead was a successful school, but staying-on rates and attainment were not as high as they should have been, especially for pupils from the most deprived areas.



"There were concerns about attendance and destinations for some, and we wanted to increase the number and quality of exam passes and make space for wider achievements.

"The strengths of the model are that it reduces duplication of work. Previously, pupils completing some National 5s would repeat pretty similar assessments in S5 for Higher. The time is better spent developing skills and understanding."

Although results at Higher have fluctuated from year to year there has been an overall increase in the number of pupils achieving Highers since 2013, when the model was introduced.

This year, nearly 70 per cent of school leavers secured at least one Higher compared to 48 per cent six years ago.

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First Minister given lesson in graffiti art

When visiting a charity art project in the West End recently, Nicola Sturgeon was given a personal lesson in graffiti spraying.

The First Minister added to a series of murals painted by dozens of artists on a stretch of derelict railway arches along the Clydeside Expressway.

The project is Scotland's only legal space for practising graffiti and street art, it was organised by music and arts venue SWG3's charity arm Clydeside Initiative for Arts. Artists from across the world contributed to the colourful entrance to the Yorkhill area, spending more than 700 hours painting the murals.

Sturgeon wrote on Twitter: "Thanks to everyone at the brilliant SWG3 Yardworks Railway Arch project for the lesson in graffiti art earlier – really good fun."

Gaz Mac, SWG3 studio director, said: "It was very special to have the First Minister here to celebrate the completion of our latest Clydeside Initiative for the Arts project."



"Graffiti and street art is a growing part of Glasgow's culture and it's important that people understand its potential for creating positive change within communities."

Mutley, the director of SWG3, said, "The pathway along the Clydeside Expressway is one of the gateways to Yorkhill and Finnieston from the river and also connects the city centre to the west end, so it's fantastic to see what was ultimately an unloved facade of arches, brought back to life with these incredible murals. It gives you a sense of what lies behind."



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High demand for Maryhill development

Over 30 homes were recently completed at Lochgilp Street in Maryhill.

The homes – the fourth development as part of the Maryhill Locks Masterplan - have sold out, with 10 sold on the first day.

Gary Watt, igloo regeneration director, said: "We're incredibly proud to have handed over these homes to the newest residents of Maryhill Locks, which has fast become a great place to live and call home. Lochgilp Street will only add to the wonderful sense of place that is emerging at this quite unique part of Glasgow, where the canal meets the River Kelvin. The mix of contemporary architecture and low energy construction means the character is defined by good design, and is good for the planet too".

CCG managing director, David Wylie said: "Lochgilp Street is a truly outstanding proposition for those looking to get on to the property ladder, or to step up a size from existing homes. With great proximity to both the west end and city centre, we are not surprised that this development has been so popular with buyers.

"For CCG, this is the second phase of the Maryhill Locks Masterplan and we were delighted to be involved with Bigg Regeneration once again. All of the homes have been constructed to the highest



quality standards and with the added benefit of solar panels, they are also incredibly energy efficient, ensuring that the lucky homeowners will benefit from a reduction in their energy bills."

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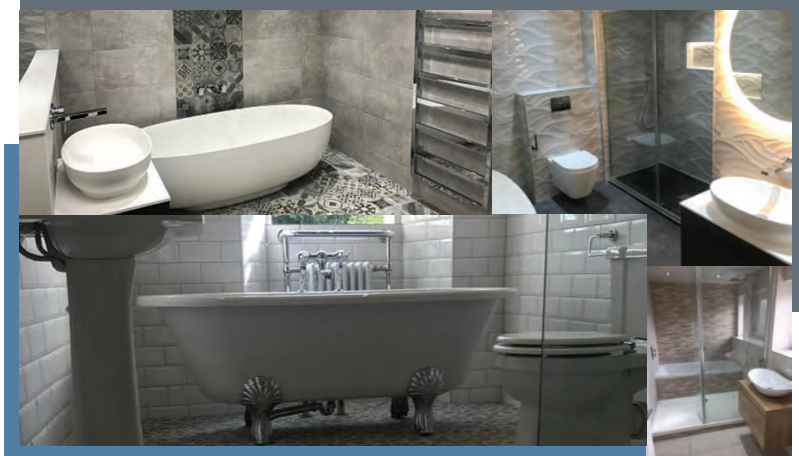


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Making the most of small gardens

If your garden is the size of a postage stamp and you just want a feeling of space when you step outside, landscape expert Genia Lorainne and planting designer Carolyn Dunster, author of Urban Flowers, offer tips...

Use mirrors

Placing a mirror or two in your small garden can create an illusion of a bigger space, which could look twice the original size. When positioning a mirror pick the right spot - somewhere where it won't be a visual hazard, as the reflection of the sun can damage not only your eyes but plants as well. For best results, choose a slightly shady area, Lorainne suggests.

If you position a mirror on your boundary it will reflect the space back, so you cannot see where your garden ends, Dunster adds.

Make use of walls and fences

Plant your favourite flowers along walls and fences to add some brightness and to spread their gorgeous scent all around your green space. Hanging flower baskets can also look great, says Lorainne.

Introduce different sized plants

Dunster explains: "A range of different sized plants means you can layer your planting and give it depth, although there is no need to place all your tall plants at the back of a border. Varying the heights makes your planting look more dense. Tall thin wispy plants such as *Verbena bonariensis* look good



woven in between shorter flowering plants - you can see through them to the plants behind."

Add climbing plants

These will give height to your garden without taking up too much ground space, says Lorainne.

Are you rejoicing because knitwear season is finally here? Us too.

Here are four new trends to try now...

1. Coordinate your look

Winter's answer to double denim, woolly coords are a genius idea, because they're as comfy as loungewear but still look classy.

For a chic workwear look, team a jumper and skirt set with brown leather boots and accessories, or keep it casual with slouchy trousers and trainers.

2. Dress it up

Loose, Eighties-style jumper dresses take a back seat for autumn as form-fitting knits take centre stage.

In ribbed fabrics and dark hues, these clingy frocks are a far cry from frumpy jumpers. Add knee high boots to really amp up the sex appeal.

3. Play with proportions

Another way to make a snuggly jumper feel modern is by opting for an on-trend silhouette and this season that means balloon sleeves.

A chunky jumper with puffy sleeves is ideal for teaming with an A-line mini or a floaty maxi dress and a pair of ankle boots.

4. Embrace your animal side

Leopard print may have dominated all summer, but now zebra stripes are ruling the fashion kingdom.



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Help wildlife prepare to hibernate

As the cool nights arrive, animals are getting ready to hibernate - and there's plenty gardeners can do to make it easier for them.

So, which animals can we help and how?

Hedgehogs

If you have a compost heap, you're already half way there for helping hedgehogs, because these hibernating mammals love them. So make sure you do any compost-turning slowly and carefully during the winter months so you don't disturb your prickly friends, advises Helen Bostock, RHS senior horticultural adviser and co-author of *How Can I Help Hedgehogs?* Also, don't block off the crawl spaces under garden sheds and decking, because hedgehogs also hibernate happily under there.



a large flat stone over the top, such as a piece of paving slab, leaving them enough space to crawl in.

If you have a pond which is well oxygenated, some frogs may overwinter in the bottom of it, burying themselves in the silt layer and breathing through their skin. Stop the pond from icing over by placing a tennis ball on the surface, which will help oxygenation.

Bees

For the buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) and honeybees, winter can be just as busy a time as the rest of the year. In the warmer parts of the UK, fully active winter colonies of this species are regularly recorded.

Help them survive by choosing a sunny spot for plants which carry nectar-rich flowers through the shortest days of the year, such as *Mahonia x media*, stinking hellebore and winter-flowering heathers.

Frogs

To help these amphibians, make a hiding place by digging a hole in the ground, around 10cm deep, lining it with gravel, twigs and dry leaves. Then put

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Embrace the geometric trend

Geometrics are figuring on designs for everything from wallpaper to carpets right now, and set to be the most fashionable way of bringing pattern into rooms this season.

Here's how to do your decor sums and ensure your home measures up in the style stakes...

Check out all the angles

"For me, geometric shapes will always have a universal and timeless appeal," enthuses Martha Coates, surface and pattern designer for Habitat.

Coates pays tribute to the versatility of geometric pattern. "Minimalist, contemporary and familiar in their structure, they'll complement existing lines and shapes within the architecture of practically any room," she says. "Their structured balance will allow you the freedom to be braver with colour and texture."

Divide and rule on the wall

Get creative and paint your own geometric shapes on a wall. Simply stick strips of masking tape to the surface to create triangle, trapezoid and rhombus shapes (look them up if that's already confused you!).

The more tape you crisscross, the more shapes you'll create. If you paint the entire wall with the tape in place, you'll have stripes



Statement equals style

You don't have to overdose on this look - just estimate how much you need to add to make an impact and burnish your style credentials. Give one punchy piece some space and a plain backdrop and it will undoubtedly become a star talking point.

Measure up with metallics

Pair a classic geometric design with metallics (gold and copper are hot choices) to play the glamour card. This combo won't just add a winning touch of opulence, but a repeating angular pattern is easy on the eye and helps create a visual sense of order. The effect is particularly good for spaces where we want to rest and relax.



between the shapes when you remove the tape.

Make a party point

Join the geometrics party by investing in an Art Deco-style drinks trolley or drinks cabinet. Both items have enjoyed a revival in homeware, as they add a sense of occasion to entertaining. A sound style move.



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