

edlife

*Find out what's happening
in your area this springtime.*



Inside your magazine: Council elections, Community Hub opens, new schools



Contents

Welcome to the spring edition of edlife – East Dunbartonshire Council’s magazine for local communities, residents and businesses. In this bumper spring edition there’s news about the Council’s multi million pound investment in schools as the brand new Holy Trinity Primary in Kirkintilloch and Thomas Muir Primary in Bishopbriggs get set to open after Easter (page 5). In Bearsden, the new Community Hub on Drymen Road has just opened bringing lots of Council and Trust services under one roof. See page 10 for more on what this £3m facility means for local people.

There’s a feature about food recycling which reveals that a third of rubbish in grey residual waste bins is food that could be recycled. Please read it to see how easy recycling is and consider if you could be doing more.

See our page 4 story on the refurbishment work that is underway at Bishopbriggs War Memorial Hall and read about plans for a new community centre and nursery in Auchinairn on page 7.

On page 11 there are photos showing what has been done to restore two local war memorials to their former glory and on page 12 we celebrate the 4 star status of our wonderful tourist attraction at Mugdock Country Park.

And don’t forget that the Council elections will be held on 4 May. Find out on page 4 how to make sure you are registered so that you can vote.

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of edlife. For the latest news, follow us on Twitter @EDCouncil, like us at www.facebook.com/edunbartonshirecouncil or visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Council raises Rainbow Flag

The Rainbow Flag was raised at East Dunbartonshire Council HQ in support of the LGBT Community during LGBT History Month (February).

LGBT History Month is an opportunity to focus on the eradication of all prejudice towards homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in our communities.

Representatives of the Equality Engagement Group and two local LGBT Youth group members, Stuart and Aimee, are pictured on our front cover raising the flag.

Evonne Bauer, the Council’s Strategic Lead – Place and Community Planning said, “Marking this event is a chance to reinforce our commitment to eliminating discrimination and prejudice in our area. It is wrong that anyone should encounter hate or prejudice simply for being who they are.”

Stuart added, “There is an excellent network of support here in East Dunbartonshire and raising the Rainbow Flag is a massive boost to local young people. It’s a huge support and a reminder that everyone has a role to play in making sure there is no discrimination.”

Youth groups for LGBT+ young people are held every week in East Dunbartonshire. ‘Easties’ meet on Mondays in Kirkintilloch and ‘Westies’ meet on Tuesdays in Bearsden. Email info@lgbtyouth.org.uk, text 07786 202 370 or call 07785 456 119 if interested. Check out www.lgbtyouth.org.uk for more.

Contact us



To contact the Council, whatever your enquiry, contact Customer Services: **0300 123 4510**



Customer Services can also be contacted in person at the Kirkintilloch Community Hub, Lennoxton Community Hub, Bearsden Community Hub or at the interim Hub in Bishopbriggs Library. You can also email: customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

A wide range of information on the Council is available at: **www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk**

Managing benefits and Council Tax online

A convenient way to manage your Council Tax account

You can

- Pay your Council Tax by Direct Debit
- Apply for a single person discount
- Report a change of address
- Tell us when you are moving in or moving out
- Change your details
- View your Council Tax account
- Check your payments and balance
- Find the Council Tax band for any property in East Dunbartonshire

Details: **www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/CouncilTaxOnline**

SMS Texting Service for Council Tax

We can now send SMS texts to remind you when payments are due. If you would like to register your mobile phone for this service please contact us on 0141 578 8190.

New for 2017! Council Tax Reduction or Housing Benefit online

You can

- Apply for Council Tax Reduction
- Apply for Housing Benefit
- Tell us about a change in your circumstances

Information you will need

- National Insurance Number
- Council Tax Account Number
- Details of all the people in your household
- Details of your landlord
- Details of all the income and savings of your household

You will need to send us evidence but we will check your online claim and let you know what you need to send us. If you claim Universal Credit you still need to apply for Council Tax Reduction.

Further information

For further information on what you need to provide, or to apply visit **www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/benefitsonline**

Council budget secures jobs and services

In February the Council agreed a range of measures to deliver £11.3m savings for 2017/18 with a 3% increase in Council Tax and with no enforced job losses or service reductions.

The Council is facing its largest ever funding gap of £11.3m for 2017/18 having already reduced its budget by £53m over the past 10 years and by £32m in this current five year Council term.

The budget was balanced using a three-way approach:

capital investment programme for major asset and spend to save projects; transformation programme to deliver efficiencies; and savings proposals to the revenue budget.

Chief Executive, Gerry Cornes, said, “We will continue to deliver new state-of-the-art schools, new Community Hubs and town centre improvements while protecting vital services, including the Positive Achievements project which supports vulnerable young people.

We are also introducing Snack and Play schemes in priority Place localities, breakfast clubs and are reviewing our Additional Support Needs service for schools. The budget also included settlement for the remaining Equal Pay claims.”

A 3% Council Tax increase will deliver additional income of almost £1.8m. For people in Band D properties that means an increase from £1,141.85 to £1,176.11 – a rise of £34.26 per year.

Residents should also

be aware that the Scottish Government has introduced an increase in Council Tax on all Band E to H properties across Scotland – in addition to any local rises. Properties in Band E to H will therefore see significant increases to their Council Tax bills for the coming year, ranging from an additional £104 for Band E to £513 for Band H as a result of the Scottish Government increase and before the Council agreed 3% rise is applied.

edlife is produced by the Communications Team at East Dunbartonshire Council. If you have comments on this magazine or if there are any future features you would like to see please get in touch with us at 12 Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow G66 1TJ Email: **edlife@eastdunbarton.gov.uk** For further information: **www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk**

This document can be provided in large print, Braille, or on audio CD, and can be translated into other community languages. Please contact the Council’s Communications Team on 0300 123 4510.

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0300 123 4510。

اس دستاویز کا ترجمہ خواہست کر کے (اردو) زبان میں ترجمہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 0300 123 4510 پر رابطہ کریں۔

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0300 123 4510 ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Gabhaidh an sgrìobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhìth oirbh. Cuiribh fòn gu 0300 123 4510

अनुप्रास करने पर यह दस्तावेज हिन्दी में भाषांतरित किया जा सकता है। कृपया 0300 123 4510 पर फोन कीजिए।



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Multi-million pound schools project steams ahead

With two new schools about to open and work getting underway on another, this Spring edition of edlife contains a bumper round-up of the Council's Primary School Improvement Programme:

- In Bishopbriggs the last brick was laid at the new £12.4m Thomas Muir Primary School and Cleddens Early Learning & Childcare Centre (CEL&CC). Pupils are looking forward to the building opening after the Easter holidays. It will replace Woodhill Primary and Auchinairn Primary with CEL&CC now being part of the school campus.
- In Kirkintilloch brickwork was also finished at the new £8.7m Holy Trinity Primary which is being built to replace St. Flannan's Primary and St. Agatha's Primary. It will also open after Easter much to the excitement of pupils, parents and staff of both schools.
- In Lenzie at the start of March, the finishing touches were put to all the external areas of the new Lenzie Meadow Primary which opened in August. With the Lenzie Moss building cleared, landscaping, playground and outdoor sports areas at the new school are now complete.



Holy Trinity Primary



Lenzie Meadow Primary



Thomas Muir Primary and CEL&CC



Site of new school in Bearsden

- In Bearsden, earthworks began to prepare the site of the new school being built to replace St. Andrew's Primary and St. Primary in Milngavie. Construction will get underway later in the spring with the £10m new school expected to open in 2018. It will bring the tally of new schools to five since April 2015.

Chief Education Officer, Jacqui MacDonald said, "When Holy Trinity Primary and Thomas Muir Primary open their doors after the Easter holidays hundreds of pupils will have the opportunity to learn in a modern, top quality environment suited to the demands of Curriculum for Excellence. They will enjoy surroundings that feature flexible indoor and outdoor learning areas, top end technology

as well as bright décor and attractive fixtures and fittings." Gabriel White (P7), Chair of the Pupil Council at Lenzie Meadow, said, "All the boys and girls have settled well into Lenzie Meadow and we have loved making new friends. It is really good to get more space in the outdoor areas. I know the pupils are looking forward to using the pitches daily and we are excited about all of the different

opportunities we will be given to learn new things, using the outdoor environment."

For more information, click the "Schools and learning" link on the homepage of the Council website for more on PSIP.

Are you registered to vote?

With Scottish Council elections taking place on Thursday 4 May, residents of East Dunbartonshire, who are entitled to vote, are being reminded to make sure they are registered.

The call for voters to sign up comes as the Electoral Commission launches a national voter registration campaign to encourage as many people as possible to register ahead of the election.

Council Chief Executive Gerry Cornes is the Returning Officer for East Dunbartonshire. He said, "We are reminding residents that if they are not registered, then they need to do so by the deadline of Monday 17 April – otherwise, they won't be able to take part in the local authority elections.

"I would encourage everyone to take action if they're not already registered to vote. It's quick and easy to register, so if you don't receive a polling card by the end

of March, visit the UK Government website to make sure that you are registered."

Andy O'Neill, Head of the Electoral Commission in Scotland added, "Our research shows that young people, students and recent home movers are particularly less likely to be registered to vote. So if you have moved house recently, then make sure you're registered correctly."

To register to vote, visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote before 17 April.

"I would encourage everyone to take action if they're not already registered to vote."

Work starts at Bishopbriggs War Memorial Hall



Work has started on the £1.1m project to transform Bishopbriggs War Memorial Hall.

Construction work to extensively upgrade the facility began on Monday 13 February and is set to run for completion at the end of April.

The work will involve a full refurbishment to the main and lesser hall, a new kitchen, fully refurbished toilets throughout

and general repairs and upgrades to the outside of the building.

Following the £1.1m internal refurbishment of the Bishopbriggs Memorial Hall, library services and the Temporary Hub will operate from the building as work begins on the £2m Hub development.

This will involve enhancing the current library facilities through a full refurbishment and upgrade of the current accommodation.

Thomas Glen, Depute Chief Executive – Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets at East Dunbartonshire Council, said,

"By phasing the works on these two key facilities, we will ensure that library and Hub services are continually delivered

The contractor, Kier Construction, is now on site and the existing car park to the rear of the Memorial Hall will be closed

and Cadder South Halls and Bishopbriggs Tennis Club. The combined £3m investment in the area will see

"By phasing the works on these two key facilities, we will ensure that library and Hub services are continually delivered to the people of Bishopbriggs throughout these exciting developments."

"Once completed, they will provide everyone in Bishopbriggs with state-of-the-art facilities they will be proud of.

to the people of Bishopbriggs throughout these exciting developments."

until the completion of the work. A safe pedestrian access will be maintained through the site between Balmuldry Road

the completed War Memorial Hall and new Library and Community Hub building available to the local community in winter 2017.



Use your loaf Recycle your food waste

“Recycling has made me more conscious about how much food we waste, and I’m now careful about only buying what my family needs. I used to buy multi-packs because they were cheaper, but I ended up just throwing a lot of it into the bin.”

The amount of waste being thrown into domestic bins in East Dunbartonshire could be drastically reduced if more residents used the weekly food recycling service.

Around a third of rubbish being chucked into grey residual bins across the region is made up of food waste, which emits harmful methane gas once it breaks down in landfill sites.

A campaign to encourage residents to use the free service has now been launched by East Dunbartonshire Council. Colourful leaflets explaining what can and can’t be recycled will be posted through letterboxes over the next couple of weeks, along with a supply of food bin liners.



The average household which does not recycle food waste is currently throwing the equivalent of £38 each month into the bin, so the campaign is aimed at getting these residents participating in the food waste collection service. Almost all dry food can be recycled – in East Dunbartonshire, it is then treated before being converted into energy. Kitchen caddies and bin liners are provided by the Council, the larger kerbside caddies lock to prevent smells, leaks and spillages and are emptied once a week.

Julie McNeill, who recycles the food waste produced by her family at their home in Bishopbriggs, said, “Recycling has made me more conscious about how much food we waste, and I’m now careful about only buying what my family needs. I used to buy multi-packs because they were cheaper, but I ended up just throwing a lot of it into the bin.”

“Food waste recycling couldn’t be easier, the caddy only sits in the kitchen for a day or two before the bag goes outside, and it’s then picked up once a week. It means that there aren’t any smells from the main kitchen bin, which is now less full too. Recycling is also the right thing to do for environmental reasons.”

If you would like to order a food waste caddy, please contact the Council on 0300 123 4510.

More information about recycling can be found at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/recycling-and-waste

For tips about reducing the amount of food waste in your household, check www.lovefoodhatewaste.com



Place agenda moves forward in Auchinairn



Chief Executive Gerry Cornes on the site with project manager Janet Paterson.

“The new community facility will be built on the site of Auchinairn Primary School and will be a mixed use building for community groups with a café and a children’s nursery. In the grounds of the development there will be a playground, car parking and landscaped gardens.”

In Auchinairn the East Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership is working to reduce inequality and target resources where they are needed the most.

As a result the ‘place approach’ has been adopted – a way of working with communities to alleviate local issues with tailored solutions, making people central to the process.

The delivery of a state-of-the-art community centre and nursery for Auchinairn is proposed as part of the ‘place agenda’ and the project recently moved a step forward after planning permission was granted.

The new community facility will be built on the site of Auchinairn Primary School and will be a mixed use building for community groups with a café and a children’s nursery. In the grounds of the development there will be a playground, car parking and landscaped gardens.

Subject to Council approval, the building of the new community centre and nursery can now be progressed for financial close.



News for blue badge holders

Drivers with a Blue Badge in East Dunbartonshire can park for free in town centre car parks – even where there are charges in place for others. As long as your Blue Badge is prominently displayed, you are exempt from displaying a ticket or paying charges in Council car parks.

Charges were previously introduced in seven car parks last July with the other 21 Council car parks remaining free to use. Depute Chief Executive – Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets, Thomas Glen said, "Across the area, drivers with a Blue Badge can park free in all Council car parks whether they are in a Blue Badge bay or not. I hope this encourages more people to support our town centres and shop locally. It is worth remembering too that even in car parks where charges are applicable, the first two hours of parking are free for everyone but a ticket must be displayed."

For more information on Council car parks, charges and more, please visit: www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/parking

Meanwhile, the Council's Community Safety Team has been cracking down on drivers misusing Blue Badges and seized seven badges which were being used fraudulently.

Officers inspected 62 Blue Badges over a two week crackdown where they had reason to query their use.

Under the Disabled Persons' Parking Badges (Scotland) Act 2014 misuse of a Blue Badge includes where family or friends of a Blue Badge holder use the badge without that person being with them. It also includes displaying an out-of-date badge.

Thomas Glen said, "Blue badge bays make life so much easier for those who genuinely need them. It is a criminal offence to misuse a badge and can result in a £1000 fine, a criminal record and confiscation of the badge. Please know that we are checking and will take action."

If you have information about the misuse of a Blue Badge please call 0300 1234 510 in confidence and ask for the Community Safety Team.

Stub it out – keep public vehicles smoke free



"This campaign is a necessary reminder to smokers to consider the effect that their choices may have on their colleagues, as well as on members of the public".

A campaign to remind drivers not to smoke in public service vehicles has been launched by East Dunbartonshire Council and the East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

Fines of up to £50 can be issued to anyone caught breaking the law by lighting up behind the wheel of work vans, bin lorries, fire engines, taxis and buses.

Licensing Advisers from the Council's Trading Standards & Licensing Team receive complaints regarding the smell of smoke within some public service and business vehicles.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, Allander Coaches and East Dunbartonshire TOA Taxis have pledged to support the campaign.

Susan Manion, Chief Officer of the HSCP, said, "Smoking is a major public health issue and people have the right not to be subjected to it within the workplace. This campaign is a necessary reminder to smokers to consider the effect that their choices may have on their colleagues, as well as on members of the public who may also be using their vehicles."

"The HSCP offers a range of advice and support to anyone who would like to stop smoking, through its Smokefree Services across East Dunbartonshire, and this campaign will publicise where and when these are available."

Good sports honoured by **EDLC Trust**



Inspirational sporting heroes have been honoured for their efforts to encourage people of all ages to get active, go for gold and take part in community sport.

The winners of the 2016 Club, Coach and Volunteer Awards – organised by East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture (EDLC) Trust are listed here:

- Young Persons' Coach Of The Year – June Campbell, Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth Amateur Swimming Club (KKASC)
- Young Coach Of The Year – Kirsty Cunningham, West Park United FC
- Volunteer Award – Marianne Emordy and Karen Ballard, Springburn Harriers
- Development Coach – Alan Hill and Frank Thom, Springburn Harriers
- Disability Coach Of The Year – Allwyn Crawford, Tennis Aces
- Performance Coach Of The Year – Andy Lynch, Athlete performance
- Community Coach – Alan Scobie, KKASC
- Active Schools Volunteer of the Year – Barbara Knox, Springburn Harriers
- Club Of The Year – KKASC
- Contribution to Sport – Ian Stevenson, Lenzie Youth Club.

Mark Grant, General Manager of EDLC Trust, said, "Well done to all the winners and nominees. East Dunbartonshire is lucky to have such a wealth of inspirational, hard-working and knowledgeable sports coaches and volunteers."

"The Trust and Council work together to provide sporting and leisure opportunities for people of all ages, but a huge vote of thanks is due to these coaches and volunteers."

Disability Coach Of The Year, Allwyn Crawford, said, "The members of my team who attended all enjoyed the experience and to be able to link up with the other clubs I'm sure will be invaluable in the future."

Community Coach of the Year, Alan Scobie, of Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth ASC, said, "It was good to meet so many coaches from other sports – we truly do have a wide variety of great coaches within the area."

Top Don



Council Apprentice, Paul Don has scooped a top prize at the APSE National Apprentice of the Year Awards.

Paul, a second year Construction Management apprentice, was up against fierce competition from throughout the UK, but his enthusiasm and accomplishments singled him out to make him this year's winner in the Housing & Building (Professional Services) category.

"This is a fantastic achievement for Paul against competition from across the country."

Twenty one year old Paul from Bishopbriggs was Student of the Year whilst studying for his HNC in Building Services Engineering at North Glasgow College. Despite being offered two university places he decided to take on a four year apprenticeship and get into the world of work.

Since then he has been involved in a range of major infrastructure projects including new schools, a community centre and much more.

He said, "I am over the moon and can't quite believe it. I was nervous but had great support from colleagues who were all willing me on. The reaction has been amazing and I am chuffed to bits for myself and my family who are all very proud."

"I was never sure that full-time education was the right route for me and when I heard about the Council's Modern Apprenticeship I thought I could enjoy the mix of working, learning on the job and studying – while getting paid of course."

Ann Davie, Depute Chief Executive – Education, People & Business added, "This is a fantastic achievement for Paul against competition from across the country. He has made a great start to his apprenticeship and deserves this recognition."

For more information on the Blue Badge scheme, please visit: www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Bearsden Community Hub officially opened



Bearsden Community Hub, the new home for Council, library, leisure and cultural services in the town, was officially opened at the start of March, following a £3m investment by the Council.

Located in the heart of Bearsden on Drymen Road, it brings a wide range of services under one roof including Council Tax, benefits, registration, licensing, housing, general Council enquiries, library services, leisure services, arts and events.

The fantastic new facility also contains meeting rooms and social work facilities, new public toilets and an entire upgrade of the current accommodation. The on-site customer services team will make it easier for residents to access and get information about a variety of different Council services and make payments for them in just one visit.

Ann Davie, Depute Chief Executive – Education, People & Business, said, “This new Community Hub means the people of Bearsden will now be able to access a range of important services under one roof, on their doorstep. It provides easy access to information, advice and services in one central, modern and vibrant facility.

“There’s a new children’s area in the library, public WiFi, laptops, a meeting pod for learning activities and the improved hall facilities mean a broad range of community activities can take place in the building too. Please pop along to see what’s on offer.”

A range of Council and Trust services will be provided in the Hub, including:

- Payment kiosk – accepting cash and card payments for all Council services
- Answering enquiries about Council Tax, benefits, housing and more
- Accepting and validating application forms, including taxis, civic licences, education and more
- Blue badge applications (including lodging of application and payment, taking photos and assessing for automatic grant of badge)
- Registration of births and deaths
- IT facilities to support employability activities
- Social Work services
- A brand new community library.

What you need to know:

Customer Services will be open 9am-6pm, Mon-Thur and 9am-5pm, every Friday.

Library Services will be available 10am-8pm, Mon-Thur and 10am-5pm on Friday and Saturday.

For more information please visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk for Council services or www.edlc.co.uk for library, leisure and cultural services.

Residents can also call 0300 123 4510 or email customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Helping young people stay safe online



East Dunbartonshire’s multi-agency Child Protection Committee is raising awareness of internet safety for local young people.

Information has gone out to schools to let pupils and their parents/carers know how to stay safe online. School inputs are also being arranged with Police Scotland Local Problem Solving Teams to talk about the importance of internet safety.

If you want to learn more about the dangers young people face online and find out how to protect against them, check out: www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017

You’ll find a range of information on there to help you start the conversation.

Police Scotland are part of the Committee and Inspector Ewan Henderson, said, “CEOP is the Child Exploitation and Protection Online Centre and they also provide some excellent online resources for specific target audiences, including young people themselves. If anyone is worried about online abuse or the way that someone is communicating online it is also very easy to report this through the website.”

The CEOP Child Protection website can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

War memorials restored to former glory



War memorials in Kirkintilloch and Lennoxton have been returned to their former glory, thanks to great partnership working between the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund (CMRF) and East Dunbartonshire Council.

The CMRF – which is administered by War Memorials Trust on behalf of Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Government – awarded nearly £90,000 of funding to the conservation and repair works with the Council contributing another £30,000.

Conservations revealed that both war memorials needed extensive repair works. At Kirkintilloch War Memorial this included cleaning and treating the six bronze plaques, repairing and repainting the four ironwork gates and re-pointing the whole memorial with lime mortar while the Campsie War Memorial needed cleaning and re-pointing, as well as repair work to its ironwork gates and stonework.

Gold leaf work has also been reinstated at Kirkintilloch so that the war memorial now closely resembles what it would have looked like when it was first unveiled in 1925.

As well as being conserved and repaired these historical structures now incorporate a very modern crime-fighting security system called SmartWater. All bronze work on both memorials is now coated with this new forensically traceable DNA liquid.

Frances Moreton, Director of War Memorials Trust, said, “The centenary of World War I has so far seen communities across Scotland take advantage of this special funding, to ensure their war memorials are in the best possible condition to mark the sacrifices of so many. The memorials at Kirkintilloch and Lennoxton are impressive monuments and are now in a good state of repair. CMRF grants are still available so we would encourage communities to get in contact now if they are considering undertaking a war memorial project.”

It is the second time war memorials in East Dunbartonshire have benefitted from the CMRF. In 2014, war memorials in Bearsden and Milngavie were conserved and repaired thanks to a £16,550 grant.



Crowning glory for Coronation Gardens

Coronation Gardens in East Dunbartonshire was awarded Showcase Centenary Field 2016 status at the Fields in Trust Awards.

The site in Lenzie was one of only eight nationwide awarded the prestigious title by the Fields in Trust, and the only one from Scotland.

The Centenary Fields programme, launched in 2014, is part of an initiative run by the national charity, in partnership with Poppyscotland. It has worked across the UK to secure outdoor recreational spaces in perpetuity to

commemorate the World War One centenary and honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives during the conflict, by protecting them for the benefit of future generations.

Paul Curran, Strategic Lead - Neighbourhood Services, said, “The aim of the work we have carried out at Coronation Gardens is to provide a peaceful, attractive open space which is also wildlife friendly.

“The Gardens have a number of bedding areas, paths and seats and offer visitors a peaceful area for quiet reflection.”

Colin Rennie, Manager, Fields in Trust Scotland, said, “I congratulate East Dunbartonshire Council for being the first local authority in Scotland to protect memorial spaces as Centenary Fields.

“Coronation Gardens in Lenzie provides an excellent showcase Centenary Field illustrating how this programme can mark the sacrifices made by so many in World War I whilst looking to the future through a living remembrance.”

Work in Lenzie ranged from the creation of new herbaceous

borders and shrub beds to the planting of specimen trees. In 2014 one of the bedding sites was planted up as a poppy meadow as part of the Council’s World War Commemorations.

A newly designed memorial sculpture depicting growing poppy flowers was created by Iain Chalmers from Chainsaw Creations and an inscribed wooden bench has been installed and the existing walls, which extend around three sides of Coronation Gardens, were also upgraded.

West Balgrochan Marsh is blooming lovely

West Balgrochan Marsh is looking blooming marvellous thanks to great partnership working between the Council, Torrance Greenspace Group and help from some hard-working school pupils.

The Torrance Greenspace Group was awarded £1,000 from The Central Scotland Green Network Community Fund and used some of it commission a fantastic biodiversity totem pole which shows some of the plants and animals that can be found at the marsh.

The area is bursting with biodiversity and is a site of local conservation interest for both people and wildlife.

The Council's Streetscene Technical Support Team provided additional value by assisting the Torrance Greenspace Group to develop and implement the project.

Torrance Primary pupils also worked with the Council's Countryside Rangers to plant a wide variety of wildflowers suited to the wet conditions of the marsh including Ragged Robin, Devils-bit Scabious and Meadow Cranesbill.



These plants will provide nectar for many insects while some are food plants for butterfly caterpillars.

Karen Smith of Torrance Greenspace Group, said, "The Torrance Greenspace Group was delighted to have been awarded a grant from Central Scotland Green Network Trust to fund the

wildflower planting and totem for the marsh.

"We aim to enhance the open spaces around the village by planting spring bulbs/ wildflowers, maintaining the planted containers, flowerbeds and nature corridors for the benefit and enjoyment of the local community."

Balgrochan Marsh improvements march on



Visitors to Balgrochan Marsh in Lennoxton can now enjoy an improved experience, thanks to great partnership working between East Dunbartonshire Council and the Whitefield Pond Group.

Noted for its wide variety of wildlife ranging from the elusive Snipe to the equally shy Roe Deer, Balgrochan Marsh was in need of some conservation management.

The Council worked with Whitefield Pond Group to secure £23,281 towards this from WREN, a funding body for Landfill tax grants. The grant was used to improve Balgrochan Marsh – a site of local conservation interest – for both people and wildlife.

In addition to the funding secured, the Council's Streetscene Technical Support Team provided additional value by creating a

raised path linking Geelong Gardens to the Crow Road Right of Way as well as installing a large sandstone monolith information point and boundary site marker stones.

Local school pupils also created a wildflower meadow at Geelong Gardens while small shallow pools suitable for amphibians and dragonflies will be created in the near future. Tree thinning will be carried out to keep the marsh a suitable habitat for the plants and animals found there.

Veronica Stewart, Secretary of the Whitefield Pond Group, said, "This has been an extremely rewarding project. It is great for local wildlife and fantastic for the community.

"We were delighted to take the opportunity to work in partnership with the Council to take steps to enhance Balgrochan Marsh. It will be a great gift to hand it on to future generations."

Here we grow at Mugdock Country Park



Tourism chiefs have praised Mugdock Country Park as families continue to flock in their thousands to the popular attraction.

Visit Scotland recently gave the park a four-star rating and a positive review, with work already underway to secure a coveted five-star award.

The park is funded by East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils, with additional support from the Mugdock Trust charity. In the past year, thousands have enjoyed a full range of events including health walks, wildlife talks, art classes, theatre shows, cinema screenings, science festival and more

The number of visitors has been above expectations, with sales increasing at the new visitor centre which opened last year as part of an £85k redevelopment.

The Mugstock festival was a great success in August and will return from 28 to 31 July 2017 – promising an eclectic and electric line-up for all the family. The Ultim8 Warrior Challenge for children also took place in August, while the Middle of Scotland Science Festival was held in October.

Mary Coulshed, Team Leader at Mugdock Park, said, "These are exciting times for the park which continues to grow from strength to strength. However, we aren't resting on any laurels – work is already underway towards a five-star rating."

The park recently launched a 'Friends of Mugdock' scheme – helping to support future developments and providing the card holder with exclusive benefits within all the businesses.

Visit www.mugdock-country-park.org.uk for more information.

Superfast broadband comes to town

Around 10,000 homes and businesses across East Dunbartonshire are now able to access fibre broadband through the £410 million Digital Scotland rollout.

Whether you own a business, work from home or want to keep in touch with friends and family, fibre broadband enables multiple users to connect to the internet at high speeds and get better, faster access to online services.

Remember, you need to sign up for the new services with an internet service provider, as upgrades are not automatic.

Some areas that now have coverage include Milton of Campsie, Bearsden, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch, Milngavie and Torrance. More coverage will follow as work continues.

Look out for drop-in events over coming weeks to find out more about fibre broadband, the benefits it can provide and how and when you can get connected.

Fibre broadband offers fast and reliable broadband connections at speeds of up to 80Mbps* and there are many suppliers to choose from.

Check the interactive map on the Digital Scotland website www.scotlandsuperfast.com/where-when/ to find out if you can get the service.



"Look out for drop-in events over coming weeks to find out more about fibre broadband, the benefits it can provide and how and when you can get connected."



Every 9 minutes someone is stopped for speeding in Scotland.

Get caught and you could face a **£100** fine.

IN TOWN, SLOW DOWN.

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Train spotting in Milton of Campsie

Train spotters and visitors to Milton of Campsie Railway Station have been enjoying the arrival of the first train at the station for over 50 years.

Billy the Train, which now has pride of place near the former station's platform, is actually cleverly disguised seating that has been installed in tribute to the late Councillor Charles Kennedy J.P. who sadly passed away in July 2012.

The idea for the bench came from the Milton of Campsie Senior Citizens Association, who bought it in tribute to the former East Dunbartonshire councillor.

After discussions with East Dunbartonshire Council's Streetscene Technical Support Team, a suitable location was found for "Billy" at Milton of Campsie Railway Station. Situated on the Strathkelvin Railway Walkway and the John Muir Trail

"Billy" is guaranteed to catch the eye of both adults and children alike.

The Streetscene Technical Support Team provided additional value by installing hard standing around the train and assisting the Milton of Campsie Senior Citizens Association to install "Billy" on site.

Milton of Campsie Senior Citizens Association member Rosemary McAloon said the group

is delighted with the end result.

Rosemary added, "We had a look at a number of options but when we saw Billy the Train we fell in love with it."

"It is for the people of the village to enjoy. The response since it has been installed has been excellent with lots of people stopping to take photos and children wanting to play on it. I think it will be well-used."

Setting out the future for leisure and culture



This is your chance to check out the future for leisure and cultural attractions in East Dunbartonshire.

The Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy 2016-2021 has been published and is available to read online (www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/sport-leisure-and-parks/culture-leisure-and-sport-strategy) and at venues throughout the area.

It is the culmination of years of work and consultation between the Council, East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture (EDLC)

Trust and Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

Trust Chair, Mark Grant, said, "The Strategy sets out the direction and opportunities for services, facilities and provision locally over the next five years. I hope as many people as possible read it especially if you help run clubs or events in the area."

You can find copies of the Strategy in libraries, leisure centres, arts venues, Community Hubs and Southbank House in Kirkintilloch.

"I hope as many people as possible read it especially if you help run clubs or events in the area."

your local councillor

For details of Councillors' surgeries or if you would like to speak to your Councillor, please call the number above his/her photograph. To find out who your Councillor is, please check the website at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk or call 0141 578 8086.

- Conservative (Con)
- Independent (Ind)
- Labour (Lab)
- Liberal Democrat (LD)
- Scottish National Party (SNP)

Maureen Henry (Lab)
Ward 1 - Milngavie
Tel: 0141 578 8163
Email: maureen.henry@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Jim Gibbons (SNP)
Ward 1 - Milngavie
Tel: 0141 578 8163
Email: jim.gibbons@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Eric Gotts (LD)
Ward 1 - Milngavie
Tel: 0141 578 8163
Email: eric.gotts@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Duncan Cumming (Ind)
Ward 2 - Bearsden North
Tel: 0141 578 8016
Email: duncan.cumming@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Ian Mackay (SNP)
Ward 2 - Bearsden North
Tel: 0141 578 8016
Email: ian.mackay@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Ashay Ghai (LD)
Ward 2 - Bearsden North
Tel: 0141 578 8016
Email: ashay.ghai@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Keith Small (SNP)
Ward 3 - Bearsden South
Tel: 0141 578 8163
Email: keith.small@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Manjinder Shergill (Lab)
Ward 3 - Bearsden South
Tel: 0141 578 8163
Email: manjinder.shergill@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Vaughan Moody (LD)
Ward 3 - Bearsden South
Tel: 0141 578 8163
Email: vaughan.moody@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



John Dempsey (Lab)
Ward 4 - Campsie & Kirkintilloch North
Tel: 0141 578 8072
Email: john.dempsey@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Gemma Welsh (Lab)
Ward 4 - Campsie & Kirkintilloch North
Tel: 0141 578 8072
Email: gemma.welsh@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



David Ritchie (SNP)
Ward 4 - Campsie & Kirkintilloch North
Tel: 0141 578 8072
Email: david.ritchie@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Billy Hendry (Con)
Ward 5 - Bishopbriggs North & Torrance
Tel: 0141 578 8016
Email: billy.hendry@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Anne McNair (SNP)
Ward 5 - Bishopbriggs North & Torrance
Tel: 0141 578 8016
Email: anne.mcnaair@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Una Walker (Lab)
Ward 5 - Bishopbriggs North & Torrance
Tel: 0141 578 8086
Email: una.walker@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Alan Moir (Lab)
Ward 6 - Bishopbriggs South
Tel: 0141 578 8072
Email: alan.moir@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Gordan Low (SNP)
Ward 6 - Bishopbriggs South
Tel: 0141 578 8072
Email: gordan.low@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Michael O'Donnell (Lab)
Ward 6 - Bishopbriggs South
Tel: 0141 578 8072
Email: michael.o'donnell@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Rhonda Geekie (Lab)
Ward 7 - Lenzie & Kirkintilloch South
Tel: 0141 578 8038
Email: rhonda.geekie@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Anne Jarvis (Con)
Ward 7 - Lenzie & Kirkintilloch South
Tel: 0141 578 8038
Email: anne.jarvis@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Gillian Renwick (SNP)
Ward 7 - Lenzie & Kirkintilloch South
Tel: 0141 578 8038
Email: gillian.renwick@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



John Jamieson (SNP)
Ward 8 - Kirkintilloch East & Twechar
Tel: 0141 578 8038
Email: john.jamieson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Stewart MacDonald (Lab)
Ward 8 - Kirkintilloch East & Twechar
Tel: 0141 578 8038
Email: stewart.macdonald@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Jack Young (Ind)
Ward 8 - Kirkintilloch East & Twechar
Tel: 0141 578 8038
Email: jack.young@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Did you know?

Anyone can attend Council meetings. Meetings take place at the headquarters at Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch. The next full Council meeting will be on 16 March at 6pm. Check our website at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk for more information.

What's on

s p r i n g 2 0 1 7

Spring is in the air and there is a lot going on to get you out and about in East Dunbartonshire. The latest leisure and culture programmes are now available, with something for all ages.

Leisure

From March – June there is a variety of coaching programmes running at The Leisuredrome, Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre and The Allander Leisure Centre. Sports on offer include tennis, netball, basketball, athletics, badminton, gymnastics, trampolining, swimming and football.

Find out more at www.edlc.co.uk/sport.aspx

This year's Easter Holiday programme includes sessions in football development, netball camp, athletics camp, swimming development, synchro swimming, junior lifesaving, fitness suite sessions and inflatable sessions.

Find out more at www.edlc.co.uk/sport/easter_programme.aspx

Culture

- Class Acts Exhibition at the Lille Art Gallery. An exhibition of young artistic and designer talent from our eight Secondary Schools.
- Rampaging Romans and Crafty Celts at the Auld Kirk Museum. A day of fun and history for all the family. Come and discover what life was like on the Antonine Wall.
- Elvis Presley 40th Anniversary Exhibition at the Auld Kirk Museum. Come and find out about the 20th Century's most iconic solo artist told through memorabilia.
- 3d Stitching Workshops at the Barony Chambers. Join artist Karen Suzuki for this series of four workshops and use fabrics and hand stitching to create small two and three dimensional textile objects.
- At our libraries there is a range of exciting activities – sensory stars, story stars, buggy walks and Bookbug sessions for very young children and for older children there are family shine sessions, chatterbooks reading groups, Minecraft sessions and code club. There are plenty of activities for adults too including iPad and android for beginners, poetry reading group and World Book Night.

To find out more and to book any of these activities visit www.booking.edlc.co.uk/horizons/culture or call 0141 777 3143

New EDLC website is going live!



A revamped EDLC Trust website, launching soon, will have a fresh new look and feel with an improved online booking process making it quicker and more straightforward to use. The site will be mobile responsive, making it easier for customers to plan and book leisure and culture activities while on the go.

New interactive timetables will streamline the online booking processes enabling customers to quickly view and book fitness classes and activities taking place in art galleries, museums and libraries.

Mark Grant, General Manager of the Leisure and Culture Trust said, "Customers' requirements have changed since our first website was launched in 2011 and more and more people are now using their mobile phones to access online services. It is important that we adapt our systems to meet with current demands and I am sure that Trust customers will find the new website much easier to navigate and use."

Work will continue to improve the website, bringing more services online to customers later this year.

The new EDLC website will go live late March/early April.

