



edlife

New wonder wall

see page 16





Contents

Welcome to the winter edition of edlife - East Dunbartonshire Council's magazine for local communities, residents and businesses.

It's a Christmas cracker of an issue - shining a light on a range of projects, achievements and events. On page 4 you can read all about the progress being made to build a major new sports facility at Huntershill in Bishopbriggs, while page 5 looks at the diamond service a resident received from Waste Services. On pages 6 and 7 you can read all about how to prepare for winter, with information about gritting, staying safe and our festive opening hours. Meet the new chief officer for the Health & Social Care Partnership on page 8 and find out how much the Provost's Lunch event raised for charity on page 9. You can read about all the latest school news on pages 12 and 13 and page 14 has all the information on festive refuse and recycling arrangements.

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

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Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 will be commemorated at a number of events in East Dunbartonshire - including the national ceremony for Scotland.

East Dunbartonshire Council is working in partnership with Interfaith Scotland to raise awareness of this year's theme: "How can life go on?"

Bishopbriggs Academy has been chosen as the venue for Scotland's Holocaust commemoration event on Thursday 26 January 2017 - the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day.

International speakers will include author Saskia Tepe, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, and Umutesi Stewart, survivor of the Rwandan Genocide.

The evening will also include performances from young people from across East Dunbartonshire, the lighting of memorial candles, orchestral music and more.

Commemorations involving East Dunbartonshire schools are also taking place in Boclair Academy in Bearsden and St Ninian's High in Kirkintilloch on 24 January 2017.



Schools will be producing artwork and the Council is also working with the Learning Centre at HMP Low Moss.

This document can be provided in large print, Braille, or on 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。

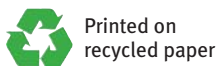
Gabhaidh an sgriobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhìth oirbh. Cuiribh fòn gu 0300 123 4510

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

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

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

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



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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 or at one of the two interim Hubs in Bishopbriggs Library or in Brookwood Library in Bearsden. You can also email: customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

A wide range of information on the Council is available at:



www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Lights get ready

for festive fun in local towns

Shoppers, revellers and businesses joined festive forces recently to support town and village centres in East Dunbartonshire.

Christmas lights were switched on in local communities, with people flocking to use shops, hostelries and services.

There was a Kirkintilloch Christmas fun day on 26 November, with live music and entertainment. Local resident Flo Cairney said, "I went down with the kids to see Santa at the Regent Centre and have to say they had a great time. Thanks to all involved for making three kids very happy."

Bishopbriggs town centre's Christmas lights switch-on took place on 24 November, with local school choirs performing and Santa's Grotto hosted in the library. Meanwhile, Celtic FC manager Brendan Rodgers helped to switch on the lights in

Lennoxtown on 26 November - tying in with a Christmas Fayre courtesy of Lennoxtown Primary School.

There was a St Andrew's Festival and Christmas Lights Switch-On in Milngavie on 3 December, while Bearsden traders organised a Christmas tree lights switch-on on 2 December.

In addition, Christmas lights were switched on in Haughhead, Torrance, Milton of Campsie and Lenzie. There was also a Yuletide celebration at Mugdock Country Park on Friday 25 November. This year's Christmas lights switch-on events were led by the community, with support from the Council to supply the festive lights, power supply, officer time and trees where appropriate.

People are being urged to support their local town centres in the run-up to Christmas and beyond the festive period.

It comes as efforts continue in East Dunbartonshire to ensure local town centres not only survive, but thrive.

The Council is developing strategies for Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Milngavie town centres, with consultation taking place recently to inform the process.

A series of improvement works are already underway in Kirkintilloch as part of its Masterplan. For more information, visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Top work as sports facility takes shape

Work is racing ahead to create a major new sports facility in Bishopbriggs - ushering in a new era of community participation and activity.

East Dunbartonshire Council is developing a sports hub at Huntershill, in partnership with the Leisure and Culture (EDLC) Trust.

The sports pavilion building - comprising 10 changing rooms, recreation hall and more - was recently 'topped out' - with all steelwork, concrete roof deck and insulated roof cladding installed. Work is also forging ahead on a full-size, 3G all-weather sports pitch with floodlighting and fencing, as well as a six-lane running track.

Plans also include three floodlit, all-weather tennis courts, an access road and associated parking.

In addition to capital funding from the Council - and EDLC Trust - sportscotland has contributed £500,000. The development is due to be completed by spring 2017. The projected total cost of the project is estimated at £7.8million - which includes creating the pavilion, sports pitch, tennis courts and athletics track, as well as dealing with buried contaminants on the site and drainage.

Work has taken place with Scottish Athletics, Tennis Scotland, local football clubs, athletics

groups and rugby clubs on the new facility, which will encourage sporting activity in the community, as well as enhancing facilities for local performance and club-level athletes.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of sportscotland, said, "At sportscotland we know that working in partnership and identifying opportunities to join up our thinking and delivery is the best way to maximise resources and deliver a great outcome for sport.

"It is terrific to see that East Dunbartonshire Council and the Culture and Leisure Trust share that philosophy. Their consultations

with the governing bodies and the clubs who will be the key users of this ambitious development mean that it will meet the needs of the local community for many years to come. That's why we were delighted to invest £500,000 in delivering this fantastic community facility."

In addition to support from sportscotland, funding is coming from the Council's capital programme - which is funded differently and completely separate from the revenue budget, which pays for day-to-day services and is under significant pressure.



High praise for Kirkintilloch Care Service

Residents and carers from two Kirkintilloch support services are celebrating after they were awarded high marks by the Care Inspectorate.

Meiklehill Housing Support Service and the John Street House care home were both rated as Grade 5 (Very Good) - the second highest ranking - for the quality of care and support which they provide, as well as for the quality of staffing.

Adults with a learning disability are given physical, emotional, intellectual and social support at the John Street facility. Meiklehill helps people to become independent,

supports them so that they can use community resources and maintain local supports and friendships, and make use of and be part of the local community.

The Care Inspectorate's job is to regulate and inspect care, social work and children's services to ensure vulnerable people are safe, that the overall quality of services improves and people understand the standards they have a right to expect.

Commenting on the John Street



House report, a relative said, "I am fully aware of and greatly re-assured by the excellent quality of care provided to my family member by this service. All the staff involved are of the highest quality, providing commitment, efficiency and affectionate care."

James Hobson, interim Chief Officer for the HSCP, said, "Providing the best service possible, tailored to individual needs, is a priority for the Partnership and services like Meiklehill are the perfect example of this."

Diamond service from Waste Services

A Milngavie resident has been reunited with a precious gemstone from her wedding ring after receiving some diamond service from the Council.

Pamela Mathieson lost a diamond from her wedding ring while getting her finger caught when dropping off some cardboard in one of the Council's recycling banks at Tesco in Milngavie.

After contacting the Council's customer call centre, the distraught mother-of-two was put in touch with the Waste Services Team who arranged for the Roads Team to uplift the recycling bank and empty its contents at the Mavis Recycling

Centre in Bishopbriggs.

There a team of volunteers began the slow process of working through the giant mound of paper and cardboard as they hunted for the gem.

After nearly an hour of searching they had almost given up hope but amazingly something suddenly caught the eye of one of the search team who spotted the diamond and plucked it from the mountain of recycling.

The team then contacted Pamela and the jewel was soon reunited with its ecstatic owner. Pamela said, "I was devastated and heartbroken but everyone really went out of their way to help me.

"I never thought for a minute they would find it. It was worse than a needle in a haystack situation.

They really went above and beyond what you would expect anyone to do for you in that situation.

"I was so happy that I got the chance to thank the team. It was so nice of them and it was amazing to get it back. It was like an early Christmas miracle."

Maureen McColl, Waste Services Team Leader was full of praise for her team.

She said, "I am very proud of the team and I would like to thank them for the fantastic level of customer service shown on the day.

"It was a great effort by all those involved and they really went an extra mile to help. They all deserve a lot of praise."



Are you ready for winter?

Winter is well on its way and East Dunbartonshire Council is once again urging residents to make sure that they are fully prepared.

Ready for winter?



On the road

Make sure your car is ready for winter by carrying out some basic checks now. Ideally, get your car a winter service.

- Check the anti-freeze and oil levels
- Check lights are working
- Make sure your car has plenty of windscreen wash, to the right winter concentration, and wiper blades are working
- Check tyre treads - they may save your life in poor conditions
- Get your brakes checked

Kit out your car with

- A warm blanket
- Emergency food and drink
- A torch
- A shovel
- De-icer and scraper
- Tow rope
- Mobile phone charger

At Home

- In the event of an emergency, the Council repairs service is available to tenants 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year - freephone 0300 123 4510. If you're not a Council tenant, it's a good idea to have a telephone number for a plumber and electrician to hand;

- Prepare a home emergency kit, including: torch, radio and spare batteries; any essential medication; three days' supply of non-perishable food and bottled water; baby food; pet supplies; paper, pencil, penknife and whistle; and a list of emergency numbers;
- Follow Scottish Water's advice on protecting your pipes;
- Know where your stop valve is and how to turn off your water;
- If cold weather is forecast, and during a cold snap, keep your heating on at a low setting to help prevent pipes from freezing;
- Know how to turn off your electricity supply at the mains;
- In the event of a power cut or emergency, call 105 (see page 18 for more details);
- Look after your pets - don't leave them out in the cold for too long;
- Ensure you have access to a shovel and salt/grit for clearing paths;

- Don't use hot water to clear ice or snow, either on your path or windscreen. It can turn quickly to ice and crack a windscreen or increase your chances of slipping. If you don't have grit or salt, sand or ash can also be used;
- If shovelling snow, think where you're going to put it so it doesn't block pavements or other people's paths. Look out for elderly neighbours and help them too if you can.

Health

- Make sure that you have enough prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines to last through the festive season;
- Check in advance when your GP surgery and local pharmacy will be closed;
- Check your home for hazards and avoid a trip to Accident and Emergency;
- Find out if you are entitled to a free flu jab, or ask your pharmacist how you can pay for one if you do not qualify.

Gritting

The Council's Roads Team is on standby 24 hours a day to respond to any gritting requirements. The Duty Officer checks a dedicated forecasting service for highways three times a day and makes a decision on what action is required.

There are three road sensors which give information on the current status of the road condition, road surface temperature and amount of residual salt. More than 400 grit bins are placed at strategic locations for public use. Additional grit is available from Broomhill Depot, Kilsyth Road, Kirkintilloch. This is a facility for members of the public to use, so please bring a shovel and container.

For all the latest information on local roads and communities make sure you follow the Council on Twitter - @EDCouncil - and like us at www.facebook.com/edunbartonshirecouncil

Closure Arrangements

Christmas / New Year Holiday

All offices of the Council will close on Friday 23 December 2016 and will re-open on Wednesday 4 January 2017. The exception being the following:

**Emergency Response Centre tel: 0300 123 4510 -
Open 24hrs 365 days for all Council emergencies.**

Contact Centre

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Wednesday | 28 December | 9am - 5pm |
| Thursday | 29 December | 9am - 5pm |
| Friday | 30 December | 9am - 5pm |
| Wednesday | 4 January | Normal opening hours |

Libraries

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| Saturday | 24 December | 10am - 5pm | (William Patrick, Brookwood & Milngavie) |
| Wednesday | 28 December | 10am - 5pm | (William Patrick, Brookwood & Milngavie) |
| Thursday | 29 December | 10am - 5pm | (All libraries) |
| Wednesday | 4 January | Normal opening hours | |

Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre, The Leisuredrome, Allander Leisure

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday | 27 December* | 9am - 4pm | |
| Wednesday | 28 December* | 9am - 4pm | |
| Thursday | 29 December* | 9am - 4pm | |
| Friday | 30 December* | 9am - 4pm | |
| Saturday | 31 December* | 9am - 4pm | *Last admission 3pm |
| Tuesday | 3 January | Normal opening hours | *Pools close 3:45pm |

Registration Services

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Wednesday | 28 December | 9am - 4pm |
| Thursday | 29 December | 9am - 4pm |
| Friday | 30 December | 9am - 4pm |
| Wednesday | 4 January | Normal opening hours |

Community Hubs (Kirkintilloch, Lennoxtown)

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday | 24 December | 10am - 1pm | (Kirkintilloch only) |
| Wednesday | 28 December | 9am - 5pm | |
| Thursday | 29 December | 9am - 5pm | |
| Friday | 30 December | 9am - 5pm | |
| Wednesday | 4 January | Normal opening hours | |

Community Hubs (Bishopbriggs, Brookwood)

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Wednesday | 28 December | 10am - 5pm |
| Thursday | 29 December | 10am - 5pm |
| Wednesday | 4 January | Normal opening hours |



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New Chief Officer For East Dunbartonshire HSCP

The East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has appointed a new Chief Officer.

Susan Manion took up her new role on 12 December following the retirement of previous Chief Officer, Karen Murray.

Susan joins East Dunbartonshire with significant experience in leading health and social care. Susan has held a number of key posts including Chief Officer in the

Scottish Borders, General Manager for the Dunfermline and West Fife Community Health Partnership, and Director of Primary Care at the Camden Primary Care Trust.

Susan said, "I am enthusiastic and passionate about improving health and care services for individuals and communities. East Dunbartonshire has an excellent track record in the field of health and social care and I am keen to build on this, working with staff, service users and communities."



Kirkintilloch Health & Care Centre

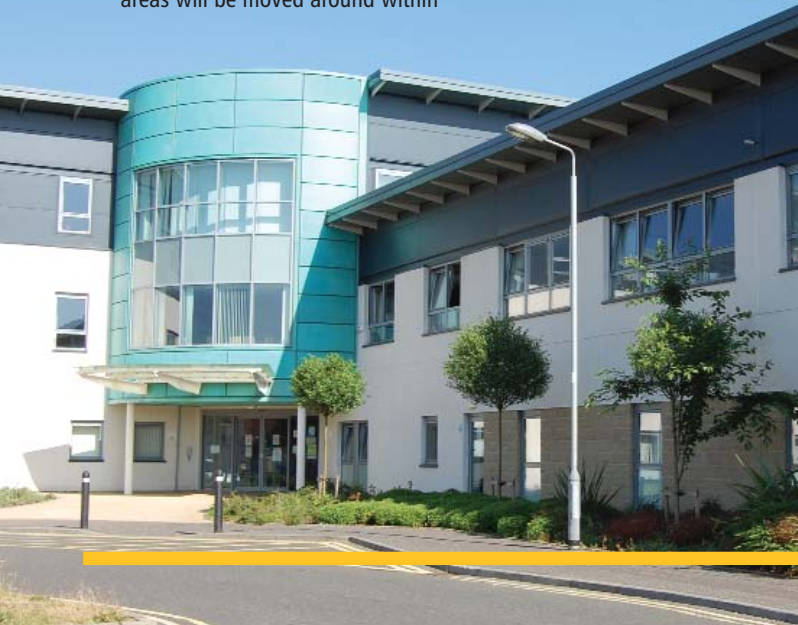
Visitors will notice some changes being made to the interior of the Kirkintilloch Health and Care Centre at the beginning of 2017.

Refurbishment work to the reception area will be carried out from January to March, but this should not affect the delivery of services.

The reception desk and waiting areas will be moved around within

the existing reception area as the improvements are made. Some of the work will be carried out overnight so that disruption will be kept to a minimum.

The refurbishment of the ground floor will be carried out at the same time as further renovation to the upper floors of the centre, which may lead to further pressure on parking.



Don't let your granny get shoved off the bus

The Council is currently replacing all 'OneScotland' bus passes for the over 60s.



If someone you know is still using the 'One Scotland' card then they need to get a replacement before 31 December 2016.

The new style card will either have the mygovscot or the saltirecard logo instead of the OneScotland logo.

Please check with relatives and friends to make sure that they have received a new style card and that they have started to use it. For advice on how to get a new card, cardholders should phone 0141 355 2200.

More than £3,000 donated to Marie Curie from Provost's lunch event

A cheque for £3,307 has been handed over to Marie Curie by East Dunbartonshire Provost Una Walker following her annual Ladies Who Lunch Christmas shopping event.

About 100 local people attended the sparkling event in Oregano in Bishopbriggs and dug deep on the day for raffles and an auction to raise much needed funds for the charity.

The Provost invited local businesses to host stalls meaning diners had the chance to browse from a wide variety of luxury gifts such as designer handbags, jewellery, cards, books and skincare products.

Provost Walker said, "Once again the people of East Dunbartonshire have supported this charity event and I am thrilled that we have raised so much money for a cause that is very close to my heart."

"Anyone with experience of Marie Curie knows what an exceptional service they offer and it was a privilege to be able to hand over the cheque on behalf of everyone who came along to the lunch and donated so generously.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed."

Anne Thomson, Chair of Marie Curie's Bishopbriggs Fundraising Group accepted the cheque with Jean Cherry, the group's Treasurer and said, "We are delighted to

accept this cheque on behalf of Marie Curie and would like to congratulate everyone involved who made the lunch such a fantastic success.

"This is an incredible sum and will pay for 165 hours of Marie Curie nursing."

William Patrick Library proud to be purple for pancreatic cancer campaign

William Patrick Library in Kirkintilloch was bathed in purple light during November in aid of pancreatic cancer awareness.

The Council joined individuals and organisations across the UK who united as part of the Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer campaign. This was done to show support for people with pancreatic cancer and

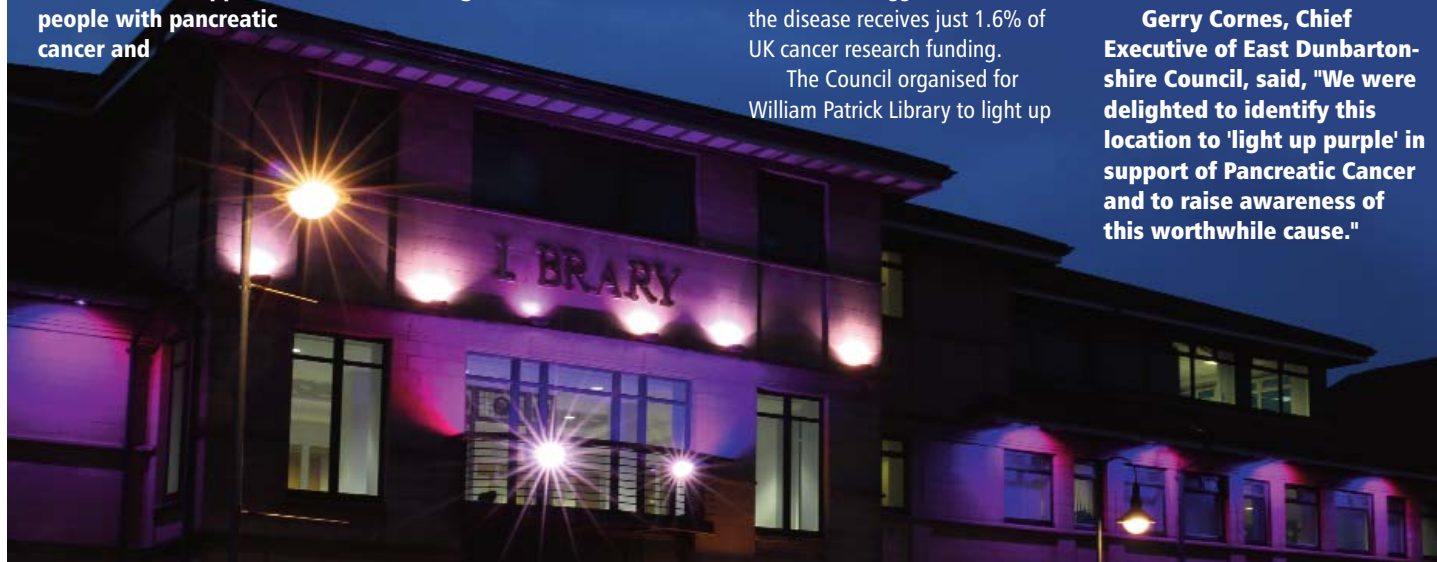
to remember those who have sadly died of the disease, whilst also raising awareness of a disease that suffers from a chronic lack of awareness and funding.

Over 9000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year. Sadly, only 5% of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survive five years or more, and despite being the UK's fifth biggest cancer killer, the disease receives just 1.6% of UK cancer research funding.

The Council organised for William Patrick Library to light up

in support of this very worthy cause. The building was lit purple from 17 November, World Pancreatic Cancer Day, until the end of November which is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month.

Gerry Cornes, Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council, said, "We were delighted to identify this location to 'light up purple' in support of Pancreatic Cancer and to raise awareness of this worthwhile cause."



New Hubs

on the way for Bearsden and Bishopbriggs

Work is progressing well on the multi-million pound project to transform Bearsden Burgh Hall in to a new Community Hub for the town.

Construction of the new £3m community facility began in April and it is on target for completion in early 2017.

The project will soon focus on completion of the interior of the building which will include features such as: the Customer Service area; public meeting rooms; social work facilities; the library as well as enhancing the current hall facilities through a full refurbishment.

Community Hubs are an important part of the Council's long term vision for more efficient, customer focussed services. The aim is to bring services together in an exciting and innovative way to improve residents' experience of dealing with the Council.

A special drop-in awareness event in October also gave local people a chance to find out more about what they can expect from the new Hub. More than 60 people went along.

Ann Davie, Depute Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council, said, "The progress in the build has been remarkable and is testament to all the planning and hard work that continues to be put in by the Council and our partners.

"The development of the Community Hub along with the nearby Kilmardinny House will see nearly £6m of investment within Bearsden and is a key element of our commitment to supporting development within the area."

Council agreed on 22 December to move to the next steps for the Bishopbriggs Community Hub and War Memorial Hall projects.



The £1.1m internal refurbishment of the Bishopbriggs War Memorial Hall will begin in January. Once complete, library services will operate from the building as work begins on the £2m Hub development later in the year.

This will involve enhancing the current library facilities through a

full refurbishment and upgrade of the current accommodation.

The Community Hub will also contain a multi-purpose room for children's activities and reading groups, a computer learning suite, private rooms for confidential business and an enhanced heritage space which will incorporate the Thomas Muir Museum.

New meeting of Allander Champions Group

Community campaigners have been praised for their enthusiasm and patience as efforts continue to deliver multi-million pound investment in Bearsden.

The Allander Champions Group has been re-established and met in November, with a second meeting scheduled for December.

The group was set up to enable key stakeholders to provide valuable input into the scope and future design of the new Allander Leisure Centre.

The Champions include East Dunbartonshire councillors, representatives from the main

user groups and local community organisations, and officers from the Council and EDLC Trust.

The replacement project is scheduled to formally start in early 2021 with the allocated budget for the project having been increased by the Council from £18m to £25m. The Council's level of contribution has increased from £8m to £19m.

Thomas Glen, Depute Chief Executive - Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets, said, "I am delighted that the Allander Champions Group has been re-established and want to thank everyone who attended the recent meeting.

"The Council remains fully committed to the Allander Leisure Centre project - which is reflected in the additional £11m of investment within the capital programme.

"This is on top of Bearsden Community Hub, the future Milngavie Community Hub, new primary school and rejuvenation of Kilmardinny House."

*The Council's capital programme is funded differently and completely separate from the revenue budget, which pays for day-to-day services and is under significant pressure.

What's on in East Dunbartonshire

Forget about the winter gloom, the future's looking bright at libraries, arts venues and sports centres in East Dunbartonshire. The new year will get off to a thrilling start with a superb range of activities and events courtesy of East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust, and the Council.

At the Auld Kirk Museum, Kirkintilloch, there will be a chance to enjoy the work of the Scottish Photographic Circle (from 7 January) and to relive the best of 80s culture - from music, fashion and film to fashion, toys and gadgets (from 11 February)

The Lillie Art Gallery

will host the 'Double Vision' exhibition (from 7 January), while the 'Natural Light II' exhibition will feature stunning portraits from Scotland's 'golden generation' of literary writers from 11 February. A selection of recent additions to the Lillie Art Gallery's permanent collection will be highlighted in 'The Art of Acquisition' from 18 March while the Young People's Art exhibition will feature artwork from the Saturday morning art classes at the Lillie and the smART classes that take place at the Barony Chambers in Kirkintilloch.

Barony Chambers

If you're aged between 7-11 and like drawing, painting and making things then come along to Saturday smART in the Barony Chambers every Saturday from 7 January. smART will take you on a journey about ideas, art, materials and objects and costs £65 for a 10-week course.

Family History

If you're new to family history and need information on how to begin tracing your roots then help is at hand. The Archives and Local Studies team have organised a beginners family history course to help people trace their ancestry and discover secrets and surprises from their past.

The Beginning Family History course will run every Tuesday between 7-8.30pm for five weeks, starting on 10 January 2017.



The course, which will take place at the William Patrick Library, costs £37.50 and can be booked by calling the centralised booking system on 0141 777 3143 or online at www.booking.edlc.co.uk/horizons/culture. Payment is by debit or credit card.

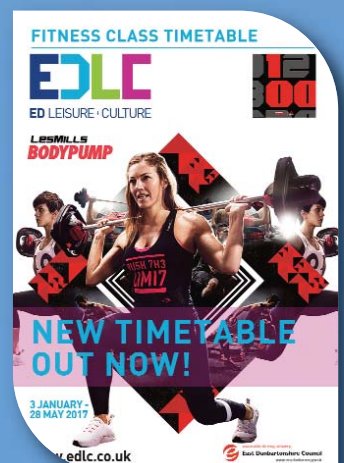
Creative writing workshops

Why not join author Alison Irvine for some fun, informal creative writing workshops at Lennoxtown Library. Four free sessions will be run on 9, 16, 23 and 30 January. Please phone Lennoxtown on 0141 777 3151 to reserve a place or you can book online.

The Learn with your Library programme offers you a friendly and welcoming learning environment offering you the chance to learn at a time and place that is local and convenient. Courses on offer include Tablet Tips, iPads for Beginners, Digital Books & Magazines and Computers for the Terrified.

Whizzkid

If you've got a whizzkid at home then don't miss events in local libraries this January, February and March which will explore 3D design and printing, coding and Minecraft.



Sporting opportunities

Meanwhile, a range of sporting opportunities are available at Allander Leisure Centre, Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre and Bishopbriggs Leisuredrome.

Visit www.booking.edlc.co.uk/horizons/culture to book 24/7, call 0141 777 3143 Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm & 2pm - 4pm or email enquiries to: edlct.bookings@eastdunbarton.gov.uk.

MORE INFORMATION visit
www.edlc.co.uk

New schools News

We featured news and photos from the new Lenzie Meadow Primary in the last issue of EDLife when it opened to pupils at the start of the August term.

Since then the £11.5m school has had its official opening with the school's singers and musicians entertaining the audience of invited guests at the event on 13 October.

Chief Education Officer, Jacqui MacDonald, said, "The official opening of Lenzie Meadow was a wonderful night and a chance to thank everyone who worked so hard to build what is a fabulous facility for children and staff. I am watching progress on the

other facilities across the area and look forward to celebrating their opening too."

Meanwhile around the area:

- Some very excited youngsters were given a sneak preview of the work going on in at the new £12.4m Thomas Muir Primary School and Cleddens Early Learning and Childcare Centre in Bishopbriggs. Children from the centre came on site to check on progress before they move in April 2017.
- The new school, opening in April 2017, will replace Auchinairn PS and Woodhill PS. A new badge and uniform have been agreed by the interim parent council.
- There's a similar timetable in Kirkintilloch for the new £8.7m Holy Trinity PS which will also open in April 2017 to replace St Agatha's and St Flannan's Primaries. The interim parent council have also agreed a badge and uniform design.

- The planning application for the new school in Bearsden to replace the town's St Andrew's PS and St Joseph's in Milngavie was approved by the Council's Planning Board on 20 December following extensive discussion with the school community on the design.

Check out the Schools & Learning section of our website (www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk) for a more detailed round-up.

Concert Success

You've heard the saying 'the show must go on', well that was the mantra of the Council's Instrumental Music Service when they hit a major problem with the annual Schools' Christmas Gala Concert.

On the afternoon of the planned sell-out concert (5 December) there was a technical hitch with the stage at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and the venue had to cancel.

Despite this setback the service worked hard with schools, pupils

and parents to get everything rearranged for Thursday 8 December and it was a night to remember!

Jacqui MacDonald, Chief Education Officer, said, "The concert was a triumph from start to finish and the young musicians and singers did a fantastic job as always.

Well done to them and everyone who helped prepare them for their perfect performance."

The audience was treated to a programme of popular orchestral music and festive favourites by the East Dunbartonshire Secondary Schools Orchestra and the East

Dunbartonshire Primary Schools Choir with contributions from pupils of the East Dunbartonshire Children's Chorus and Youth Choir and pupils from Merkland School.

Out of this World

Lairdsland Primary School receives SPACES Award

Lairdsland Primary School in Kirkintilloch has received yet another prestigious award – this year's SPACES Award in the Education Category of the Civic Building of the Year.

The school, which opened to pupils in April 2015 is the first school delivered through the Council's Primary School Improvement Programme.

The building is designed to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence and is beautifully situated at the Southbank Marina on the Forth and Clyde Canal. Lairdsland is a reference design for primary schools in Scotland and to date has received

numerous prestigious awards and accolades.

Thomas Glen, Depute Chief Executive - Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets, said, "We are delighted to have received another award from such a well-respected organisation for Lairdsland Primary School.

"SPACES is a collaboration of construction professionals committed to achieving the



highest possible standards in the development, design, construction and management of the public sector estate.

"The judges were very thorough in their evaluation of Lairdsland

Primary School and this award is a great endorsement for the Council and all the partners we worked with in delivering this fantastic, fit-for-purpose primary school."

Celebrating Success

Jack Burrows and Sara Stevenson from Merkland School in Kirkintilloch were among 130 talented pupils to be recognised at a recent Celebration of Achievements Awards ceremony.

The annual event, held in Boclair Academy, puts pupils in the spotlight for achievements outside of school.

All secondary schools as well as Merkland and Campsie View School were represented and hundreds of proud family members and friends joined the celebration.

Pupils' achievements spanned more than 20 sports including rowing, skiing, netball, karate, taekwondo, golf, table tennis and football, a range of outdoor activities such as climbing and

orienteering as well as debating, cooking, music, dancing, singing, acting, charity and community work.

Depute Headteacher of Merkland, Jim Paterson, said, "It was a great night and such a thrill to see all our marvellous young people applauded for the hard work they put into worthwhile pursuits out of school.

"Jack was recognised for his athletics and cross country achievements while Sara's swimming and athletics skills were acknowledged. The hall was full of positive, enthusiastic pupils and it is right that they are encouraged to keep up the good work."



Branch out and be a festive star

Be a Christmas star and recycle your Christmas tree and cards - that's the message to green-minded East Dunbartonshire residents.

Some 680,000 real Christmas trees are bought each year in Scotland, most of which are thrown away, generating over 13,000 tonnes of extra waste.

Last year East Dunbartonshire collected over 25 tonnes of Christmas trees for recycling. From Friday 6 January 2017 you can dispose of your tree in a skip at these locations:

- **West Carlston Garden Centre in Torrance**
- **Homebase in Milngavie**
- **William Patrick Library car park in Kirkintilloch**
- **Mavis Valley Recycling Centre in Bishopbriggs.**

Maureen McColl, the Council's Waste Services Team Leader, said, "Real Christmas trees are lovely, but it's important to recycle them when the festivities are all over.

"If you're not able to take it to one of the recycling points, just call the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 4510 and one of our agents will arrange for it to be picked up the week beginning 16 January.

"By recycling your Christmas tree you are disposing of it in an environmentally friendly way. "Don't forget to recycle your Christmas cards too - these can be placed in the blue bin with paper and card."

Go green this Christmas

Residents are being urged to go green over the festive period.

Christmas and New Year traditionally herald a rise in the amount of waste food and packaging thrown away and the Council is keen as much as possible is recycled - including Christmas trees. Waste Services Team Leader Maureen McColl said, "I would encourage all residents to try and recycle as much as possible, either through the kerbside collection scheme or at any of the Council's recycling sites throughout the area."

Remember, there will be some changes to a number of the refuse and recycling collection arrangements over the festive period. For residents who receive a collection on a Sunday (Christmas Day and New Year's Day) or Monday (Boxing Day and January 2), refuse and recycling collections will be running two days later on the Tuesday and Wednesday respectively. Collections on all other days will be on their usual day.

Normal collection day Festive period collection day

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Saturday 24 Dec | Saturday 24 Dec | (Stays the same) |
| Sunday 25 Dec | Tuesday 27 Dec | |
| Monday 26 Dec | Wednesday 28 Dec | |
| Tuesday 27 | Tuesday 27 Dec | (Stays the same) |
| Wednesday 28 Dec | Wednesday 28 Dec | (Stays the same) |
| Thursday 29 Dec | Thursday 29 Dec | (Stays the same) |
| Friday 30 Dec | Friday 30 Dec | (Stays the same) |
| Saturday 31 Dec | Saturday 31 Dec | (Stays the same) |
| Sunday 1 Jan | Tuesday 3 Jan | |
| Monday 2 Jan | Wednesday 4 Jan | |

Normal collection days will resume on Tuesday 3 January 2017. Please ensure your bins and food caddies are out on the kerbside by 7am on the relevant collection day.



Walk East Dunbartonshire
Thomas Muir Heritage Trail
www.thomasmuir.co.uk

THOMAS MUIR COFFEE SHOP

Breakfast, Lunches, Light Meals, Home Baking & our Special Weight Watcher's Menu

Fresh ground coffee and fabulous home baking that includes many of Lorna's Grandmothers original secret recipes.

Serving Puro Coffee, Teas & Fusions

TMCS Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am - 4pm, Sat 10am - 4pm, Sun closed

HUNTERSHELL GIFT SHOP

♥ Cards & Gifts ♥ Baby Gifts ♥ Jewellery ♥
♥ Hipflasks ♥ Quaichs ♥ Handbags ♥
♥ Scarves ♥ Purses ♥ Cufflinks ♥
♥ Yankee Candles ♥ Willow Tree ♥
♥ Catalytic Fragrance Lamps ♥
♥ Birthday Gifts ♥ Preserves ♥
♥ Confectionery ♥ and much more...

HGS Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm, Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun closed

"Over 40 local businesses, serving our local community"

100 - 102 CROWHILL ROAD, BISHOPBRIGGS G64 1RP
www.huntershillvillage.com 0141 772 7745

Residents can find detailed information on the location, opening times and what can be recycled at our recycling sites on our website www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk, by calling 0300 123 4510, or by emailing recycling@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



A local hero who has been at the heart - and art - of the community for nearly 40 years has been presented with a prestigious award.

British Empire Medal for inspirational Nan

Nan Middleton has been honoured with a British Empire Medal (BEM) in recognition of her outstanding contribution to arts and crafts - and volunteering - in Dunbartonshire.

Her amazing work has changed thousands of lives - providing people of all ages and abilities with new skills and chances to be creative.

Nan, from Milngavie, has spent nearly 40 years working in communities around East Dunbartonshire, founding the Creative Care charity in 1999.

In 2010, Nan and the charity set up home in Brackenbrae House - supported by the Council - and have never looked back.

Between 150 and 200 people attend Brackenbrae House every week, with an extensive programme for adults with special needs.

Nan and Creative Care are famed for their magical skills with 3D decoupage - the art of layering paper to create a 3D effect. Classes are also held on beading, jewellery and embroidery.

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, Rear Admiral Michael Gregory OBE, presented Nan with her BEM (pictured above) at an Investiture in the Council headquarters in Kirkintilloch earlier this month. Mr Gregory praised her "phenomenal work" and highlighted the achievements of the "amazingly helpful" Creative Care.

Nan - a mother of three and grandmother of five - was joined at the Investiture by her loving family, as well as patrons and management of Brackenbrae House. She said, "I've had a smile on my face for months - ever since I got

the phone call from the Palace. It's just absolutely wonderful.

"When people come to Brackenbrae House we want them to feel needed, wanted, loved and appreciated - and they do. "We've had the same management group for many years and they are wonderful. It's amazing to think there are no paid employees at Creative Care.

"I want to thank all my family and everyone at the charity for their support - I couldn't do this without you.

"I would also like to thank the Council for its support. As soon as we saw Brackenbrae House, it felt like home."

Also attending the Investiture were Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Miss Gill Aitkenhead MBE, and Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Morag Hart MBE JP

DL, member of the Honours & Awards Committee, who read the citation.

Music was provided by Bearsden Academy's senior strings - organised by East Dunbartonshire Council's Instrumental Music Service.

Creative Care began life as the Scottish School of Decoupage in 1978 and quickly developed a tremendous reputation. Since moving to Brackenbrae House in September 2010, tireless volunteers have raised more than £100,000 for improvements - including a lift, windows, heating and toilet facilities.

Creative Care received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2013 - the highest award which can be given to volunteer groups across the UK.



Art at the heart of Kirkintilloch town centre

Inspirational works by local artists are being showcased at the heart of Kirkintilloch town centre.

A new wall has been created on the corner of Catherine Street and Cowgate - featuring a range of stone carvings by talented members of the local community.

The wall is a partnership between East Dunbartonshire Council's Kirkintilloch Masterplan team and the Leisure and Culture Trust's Trails & Tales programme.

Volunteers Barbara MacIntosh, Blair Findleton and Robin Ewart worked with artist Lucinda Wilkinson over a number of months to create a series of stone artworks reflecting the heritage of Kirkintilloch - such as the Strathkelvin Coat of Arms, a foundry worker and a lion's head.

Training was provided through the Trails & Tales programme, which established a stone-carving site in partnership with the Council

at Kirkintilloch Marina.

The Seagull Trust kindly provided a temporary space for volunteers and artists to work. The outdoors activity ran one day a week for over 12 months. In addition, stone-carving taster sessions were provided as part of Kirkintilloch Canal Festival and Doors Open Day.

Cultural Co-ordinator Esmee Thompson said, "Well done to all the volunteers involved for their hard work in creating the stone carvings."

"The aim of the new wall - and the wider Trails & Tales programme - is to engage people in local stories and heritage, and inspire them to get creative."

Artist Robin Ewart said, "I was interested in sculpture anyway and then I saw an advert which contained the magic word 'free'.



Wonderwall (from left) - Cultural Co-ordinator Esmee Thompson, artists Blair Findleton (from Lenzie) and Robin Ewart (from Kirkintilloch) and Kevin Argue, Kirkintilloch Town Centre Masterplan Officer.

Also the venue was almost on my doorstep. What's not to like?

"Not only is our teacher Lucinda Wilkinson a talented artist, but her good humour and patience saw us through many a wet day at the yard."

The opportunity was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Creative Scotland.

The hope is that more community - and heritage-informed - public artworks can be used to enhance public spaces for Kirkintilloch and wider East Dunbartonshire.

For more information visit www.trailsandtales.org and www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/Masterplan

Council backing for 16 Days Campaign

Once again, the Council and its partners backed and promoted the international 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence Campaign.

Empowered* - the name for the East Dunbartonshire Multi Agency Partnership for Violence Against Women and Girls - launched the campaign with S3 pupils at Bearsden Academy.

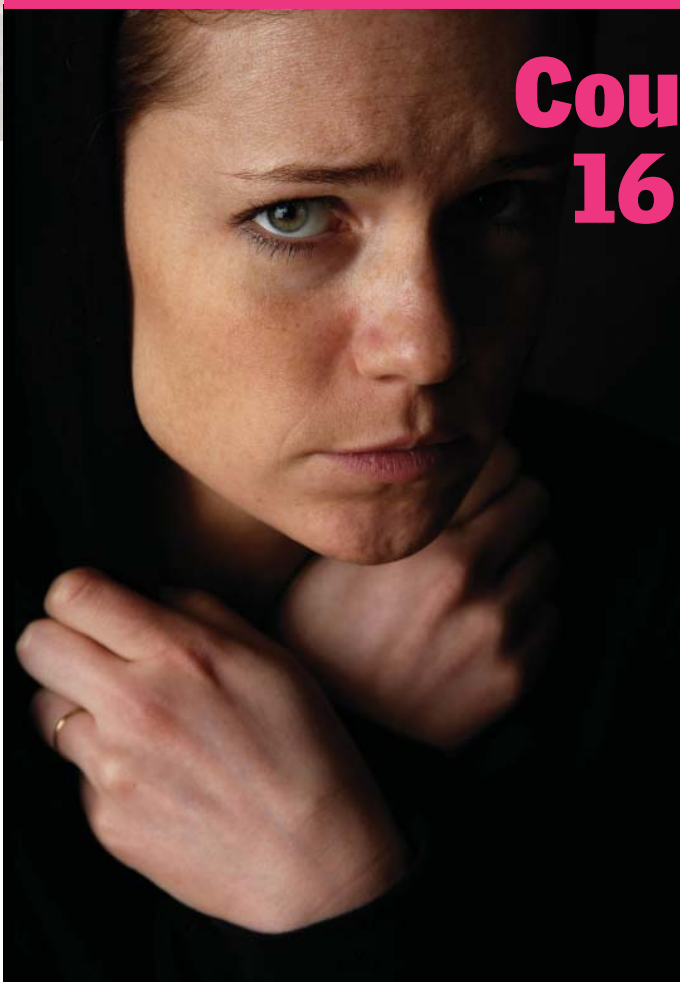
Pupils learned about the historical conditions which left women and children more vulnerable to different forms of violence. Presentations explored gender as a social construct and what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman today.

S3 student Scott Mackillop said, "It was interesting hearing

opinions from others and how passionate they were." Fellow pupil Darcy Kimmins, added, "I enjoyed the balloon activity, it was fun and got the message across."

Evonne Bauer, the Council's Strategic Lead - Place & Community Planning, said, "The campaign which ran from 25 November until 10 December raised important issues. The launch event brought speakers together from LGBT Scotland, Rape Crisis, Mentors in Violence Prevention, the CEDAR Project and the University of Glasgow and the feedback from the young people was very positive."

Find out more about the campaign here:
16dayscswgl.rutgers.edu/



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.

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Did you know?

Anyone can attend Council meetings. Meetings now take place at the new headquarters at Southbank Marina, Kirkintilloch. The next meetings are planned for Thursday 23 February and Thursday 16 March.

**POWER CUT?
CALL 105**



Would you know who to phone to report a power cut or find out more about what's happening in your area during an outage?

Well, this is your chance to get on the ball and keep a handy note of the new number to ring. On 6th September a new national number was launched by all electricity network operators – it is 105. So now, Instead of trying to remember 0800 numbers you can simply call 105.

Here's what you need to know:

- When you dial 105 you will be put through to your local electricity network operator – the company that manages the cables, power lines and substations that deliver electricity in your area.
- Ringing 105 is completely free and everyone can use it, regardless of who you buy your electricity from.
- Calling 105 is just one way to contact your electricity network operator. Check out their website for updates. Most are on social media too.
- You can also call 105 if you spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could be dangerous. If there's a serious immediate risk, please call the emergency services too.

Bird's-eye

view of Bishopbriggs project

Enjoy a bird's-eye view of ground-breaking work on Bishopbriggs Relief Road as work continues on the latest section.

That's the offer to people and businesses as the next phase of the road takes shape - paving the way for community and economic benefits. Video updates are now available on the Council's YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/user/EastDunCouncil

The Council-led project involves the creation of:

- A two-lane 50mph road - stretching 600 metres between Wester Cleddens Roundabout and a new roundabout, with another 100 metres of road on the north side of the railway

- A new bridge over the main Edinburgh-Glasgow railway line
- Dedicated walking/cycling route and bridge
- A new access road into Cadder Yard
- Two Sustainable Urban Drainage ponds.

Once phase four is complete, the existing stretch of Westerhill Road and bridge will be used as an active travel corridor - becoming a haven for walking and cycling. The project is part of the Council's 10-year capital programme and is being part-funded through developers' contributions from the Bishopbriggs East housing development.

The scheme has been designed and project managed by AECOM.

Morrison Construction is the contractor appointed by the Council, with a number of community benefits, including employment opportunities, a school placement programme with Bishopbriggs Academy and Turnbull High, and work/graduate placements.

The centrepiece of the £6.5m fourth phase is a new bridge over the railway line and the project team have liaised with Network Rail to fit in with the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme.

It is hoped the new stretch of road could be open as early as May 2017, with the entire project on track to be completed by 1 August.

Thomas Glen, Depute Chief Executive - Place, Neighbourhood

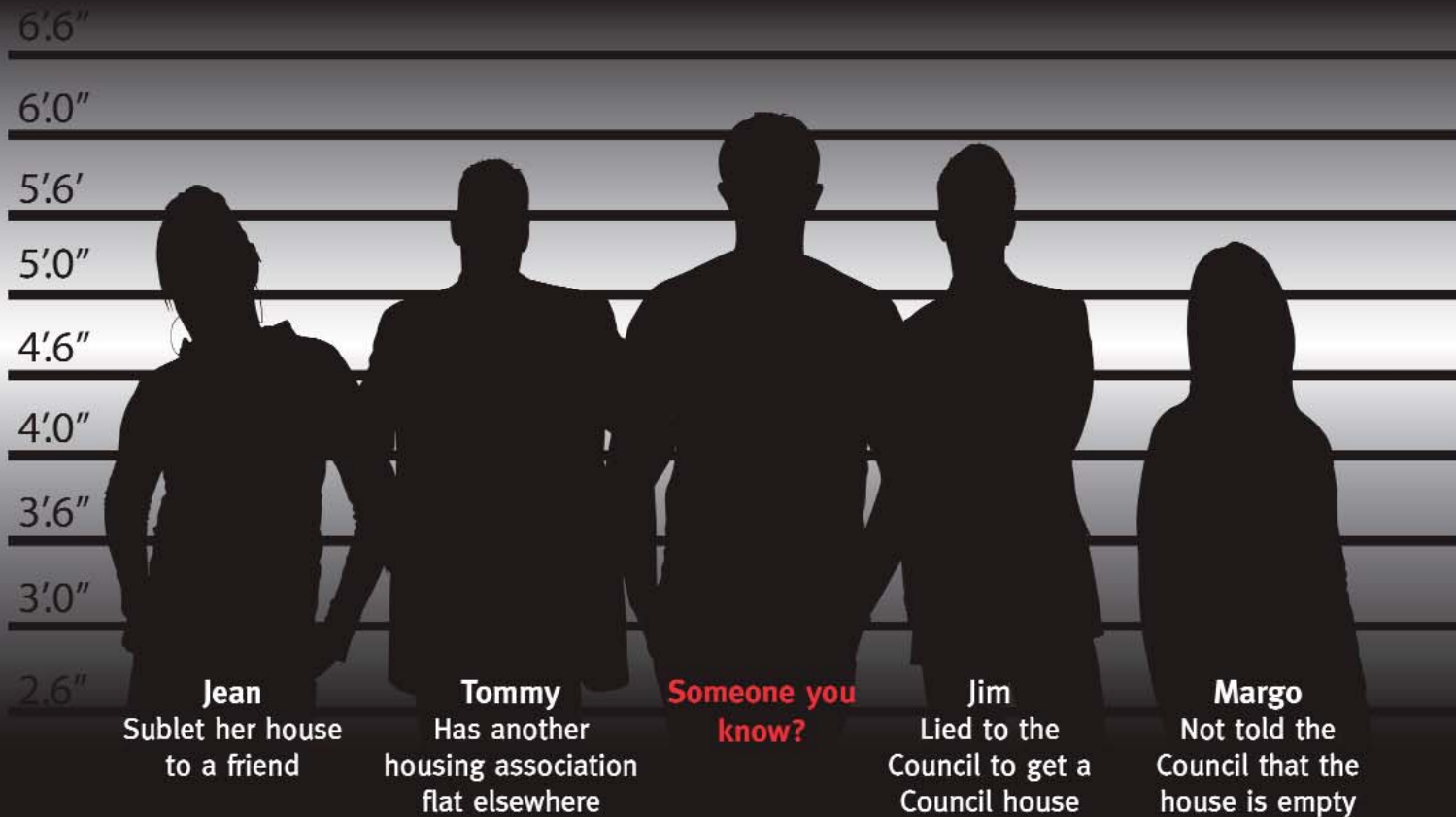
& Corporate Assets, said, "I am delighted to say that work is forging ahead to deliver the fourth phase of Bishopbriggs Relief Road. "I would encourage everyone with access to the Internet to check out the Council's YouTube channel, where you can see monthly videos - shot from a drone overhead - illustrating the scale and progress of the scheme.

"The new stretch of road will help to cut congestion, support new investment, improve air quality and encourage active travel.

"When phase four is finished, the existing Westerhill Road and bridge will become an active travel corridor for pedestrians and cyclists - linking north and south Bishopbriggs. It's going to be absolutely fantastic."



Don't find yourself in this line-up – take part in our Key Amnesty



Are you subletting your council or housing association property or not occupying it as your only home? Have you used false information to be placed on the housing waiting list? If so, you have the opportunity to hand in your keys or remove your name from the waiting list '**no questions asked**' until the end of January 2017. Contact your local housing team who will be happy to talk you through the next steps.

Alternatively, if you know of anyone committing housing tenancy fraud then report it: online at www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/reportfraud, by emailing fraud@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or by calling 0300 123 4510 in the strictest confidence.

Report it!

