

edlife

Window on Thomas Muir

Ready for
winter?





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 3 (opposite) you can read all about the celebrations held locally and nationally in memory of democratic champion Thomas Muir, marking the 250th anniversary of his birth in style.

Pages 4 and 5 focus on family life in East Dunbartonshire - with a new poll crowning us the best place to live in Scotland. From quality schools to new playparks, we look at what makes the area so popular.

On pages 6 and 7 you can read all about how to prepare for winter, with information on festive refuse, recycling, gritting, staying safe and keeping cosy.

Improving customer services is a priority for East Dunbartonshire Council and on pages 8 and 9 you can read all about new developments and better access to services.

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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Happy birthday to Hillhead Community Centre

Over 200 people celebrated the first birthday of Hillhead Community Centre at a special family fun day recently.

The community open day offered a host of activities to showcase some of the groups and organisations which use the community centre.

Children enjoyed the bouncy castle, inflatable slide and face painting while the adults heard about all the activities on offer from local groups or relaxed with some refreshments from the café, provided by GRACE, as they browsed the many community group stalls.

In addition, a table-top sale and tombola helped raised much-needed funds for community groups, and sports lovers were treated to demonstrations from Head over Heels Gymnastics and Chung Yong Taekwondo.

Police Scotland and Fire and Rescue Scotland were also on hand to speak to residents, and let children explore their vehicles and try on equipment.

The event on 3 October was organised by the Council in partnership with Hillhead Community Centre Users Group.

As well as celebrating the first birthday of the community centre, the key contributions of two of the founding members of the Hillhead Community Forum were also marked with presentations to Margaret Smith and Jacqui Peltier, who stepped down after years of dedicated service to support and improve their community.

Unice Wood, chairperson of Hillhead Community Forum, said, "The event was a great success and a fitting way to celebrate the anniversary of the new Hillhead Community Centre."

Contact us

To contact the Council, whatever your enquiry, simply call Customer Services on the following number:

0300 123 4510

Customer Services can also be contacted in person at 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

In addition, you can find out a wide range of information on the Council on our website, and also carry out a number of transactions. To find out more, visit:

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

This document can be provided in large print, Braille, or on audio cassette, 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 اردو، پنجابی، گجراتی، ہندی اور دیگر زبانوں میں کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 0300 123 4510 پر رابطہ کریں۔

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

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

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

edlife is produced by the Communications Team, East Dunbartonshire Council, Civic & Corporate Headquarters, Southbank Marina, 12 Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow 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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Window on the life of a local and national hero



*Jimmy Watson -
Chair, Friends of Thomas Muir*



New light has been shone on the life and legacy of one of East Dunbartonshire's most famous sons thanks to a series of celebrations which culminated recently.

Thomas Muir - known as the 'Father of Scottish Democracy' - was persecuted and eventually banished in 1793 for his work to champion reform, freedom of speech and voting rights for all.

The inspirational figure's strong links to East Dunbartonshire are celebrated every year by the Friends of Thomas Muir, who organise a festival in his memory - supported by East Dunbartonshire Council.

This year is the 250th anniversary of his birth and festivities in his honour have included exhibitions, events in Edinburgh involving local pupils, a Democracy 250 Walk in Edinburgh

and the East Dunbartonshire Schools Art Competition.

An exhibition of the best entries was organised in Thomas Muir Coffee Shop, Huntershill, with the winner's portrait being gifted to the Scottish Parliament.

The judges include renowned artist Ken Currie, who created 'The Trials of Thomas Muir' - a painting commissioned by East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust to coincide with this year's celebrations.

In addition, a memorial window depicting the life and times of the political reformer was unveiled at Cadder Parish Church, in Bishopbriggs - where Thomas Muir was an elder - on 14 November.

The church congregation and local community worked hard to raise funds for the window, with grants and donations

from a range of individuals and organisations.

The Reverend Graham Finch, of Cadder Parish Church, said, "It was a long journey but so satisfying to see the window in place and to see also the positive response from all those who were there for the unveiling - which was carried out by Sofia Gibson of the 92nd Girl's Brigade and Neil Young of the 212th Boys Brigade."

National Co-ordinator and Chair of the Friends of Thomas Muir, Jimmy Watson, said, "It has been a momentous year and I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has helped to organise, support and promote the many events which have been held.

"This has been a fantastic opportunity to remember and celebrate all those who fought for democracy and our right to vote."



Gabrielle Joy Henderson from St Ninian's High created the winning portrait of Thomas Muir. Artist Ken Currie is pictured above with his painting of Muir.



SPOOK-tacular art on the A81

Youngsters at Bearsden Primary inspired people to paws for thought recently with special artwork celebrating protected cycling space on the A81.

The pioneering Bears Way project aims to encourage more people to cycle, walk and use public transport for everyday trips.

When complete, local residents will be able to access destinations between Milngavie and Glasgow traffic-free.

P7 pupils at Bearsden Primary recently created Hallowe'en-themed art - with the Bears Way

logo hidden within - to decorate the first phase of the protected cycleway.

Head Teacher Paul Meehan said, "Our Primary 7 pupils thoroughly enjoyed producing artwork to decorate Bears Way.

"At Bearsden Primary School we are very keen to further develop links, both in our local community and in the wider sense, to promote and develop Active Travel, and cycling in particular."

For more information visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/bearsway



Service users and guests celebrate the 30th anniversary

30 years caring at the heart of the community

A care home for adults with learning disabilities in East Dunbartonshire held a party for former residents and employees to celebrate its 30th year at the heart of the community.

John Street House Care Home Service in Kirkintilloch provides physical, emotional, intellectual and social support for adults from across East Dunbartonshire with learning disabilities.

Guests were invited to take a trip down memory lane as they wandered through the unit - looking at a wall frieze created by current residents and employees which contained information, events, life stories, and photos of service users and employees from 1985 to the present day.

Cathy Cairney, sister of service user Christopher Cassidy, enjoyed the celebrations.

She said, "I was so glad to be part of the John Street House

30th anniversary celebrations - it was a wonderful day for residents and families to look back over the years with great memories.

"Management and staff worked very hard to mark this anniversary in a very special way.

"Since coming to John Street House 28 years ago, my brother has become more independent, confident and sociable. He enjoys mixing with other residents and enjoys social events and holidays.

"Christopher was extremely quiet, shy and sometimes withdrawn before coming to live at John Street House. It is nice to see him enjoy life and engage with residents and staff.

"I cannot thank all the staff enough for the great work they have done over the years and the work they continue to do to make John Street House a great success and such a lovely, happy, safe place for my brother to live in."



Walk East Dunbartonshire

Thomas Muir Heritage Trail

www.thomasmuir.co.uk



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A great place to live, work and raise a family

East Dunbartonshire has been rated the top place in Scotland for family life by a survey aiming to find the best and brightest parts of the UK.

The local area scored highly in a poll commissioned by Family and Childcare Trust thanks to high-quality public services, a family-friendly infrastructure and strong economic prospects.

Ann Davie, Director of Customer Services and Transformation at the Council, said, "To be recognised and highlighted in a national survey specifically looking at service provision such as social care, early years, schools, and leisure and culture services is testament to the efforts of all our hard-working employees in these areas.

"It is encouraging to receive national recognition for the services we provide, particularly in such financially-challenging times and given that the report is made up of both formally-reported data and parental views through the survey."

Featured here on pages 4 and 5 are just a few examples of why this area is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Meanwhile, pages 8 and 9 focus on the Council's ongoing efforts to improve the high-quality services delivered to local residents and businesses even further.

* Full details of the survey can be found on the Family and Childcare Trust Website -

For more information visit www.familyandchildcaretrust.org

Help on hand to adapt your homes

A new pilot has been launched to help older people live independently at home for longer.

Homeowners across East Dunbartonshire are being encouraged to make alterations to ensure their property continues to meet their needs in future.

It is part of the Scottish Government's Help to Adapt scheme - backed by the Council. It allows homeowners over the age of 60 to fund adaptations using equity in their home to secure a loan from the Scottish Government.

The scheme provides a personalised service which aims to deliver peace of mind for homeowners. It will be delivered by Link Group Ltd until 2017.

Craig Sanderson, Chief Executive, Link Group Ltd said, "We are aware of the difficulties people face when they get older and that is why we are encouraging homeowners to make alterations to their property now, in order to stay safe and maintain their quality of life in their home.

"Help to Adapt provides advice and assistance to deliver adaptations such as handrails, ramps, stair lifts, and improvements to kitchens and bathrooms."

To find out more about Help to Adapt visit www.HelpToAdaptScotland.co.uk

New playparks are in full swing

Two new playparks have been given the seal of approval by energetic youngsters - who helped to decide what equipment should be installed.

Located just off Parkburn Avenue in Kirkintilloch and Station Road, Bearsden, the playparks offer a wide range of exciting equipment - including dedicated toddler play areas and facilities for older children, including swings and climbing frames.

The impressive new

community facilities were created as part of the Council's Capital Play Programme and its Colquhoun Park Flood Alleviation Scheme. There were also developer contributions from Cruden Homes.

Council Technical Support Team Leader Gillian Telfer said, "Our officers worked with children from local primary schools to find out exactly what kind of play equipment they wanted. It's obvious that a lot of thought has

gone into this and I thank the children for their contribution."

Tommy Cairney, of the Greens Tenants and Residents' Association, praised the Kirkintilloch playpark.

He said, "The new playpark is fantastic - the children love it. Kids are coming from miles around to try it out and it's busy in all weathers. It's great for the local community and word is spreading about how much fun it is."

Youngsters from Colquhoun Park Primary join officers to launch the new facilities in Bearsden

Exciting times ahead for local schools

East Dunbartonshire's next new primary school - being built to replace Lenzie PS and Lenzie Moss PS - is rounding off the year with a triple boost.

Firstly, it was announced that the £11.5m building would be ready earlier than planned, with children now starting the new school term in August 2016 in their new classrooms.

The next milestone came when the new headteacher was appointed. Greg Bremner, currently the headteacher at Clober Primary, will take up the reins in August 2016.

And finally, following a poll of all families, the new school name has been decided - Lenzie Meadow Primary School.

Gordon Currie, Director of Education and Children's Services,

is pleased with the progress of the £48m Primary School Improvement Programme.

He said, "All the projects are at different stages and working with parents, pupils and staff we are developing first-rate schools - providing our young people with excellent learning environments."

Lenzie Meadow Primary is one of four new primary schools being built across the area.

They are all modelled on the Lairdsland Primary standard - the award-winning reference design for Scotland.

Here's a round-up of what's happening across the area:

- The planning application for the new school and early years facility to be built on the Woodhill PS site to replace it, Auchinairn

PS and Cleddens Early Learning and Childcare Centre is due to be considered by the Planning Board before Christmas. Travel and parking information for parents/carers is being produced ahead of changes coming into force early in 2016.

- The planning application for the new Kirkintilloch school, being built on the St Flannan's PS site to replace it and St Agatha's, was lodged in November and will be considered by the Planning Board soon.

- The name of the contractor who will build the new Bearsden school on the St Andrew's PS site in Bearsden - to replace it and Milngavie's St Joseph's PS - is expected to be announced soon and plans for the new school are on track.



Delighted pupils look forward to the new school



Are you

Ready for winter?



Are you dreaming of a green Christmas?



Bing Crosby was dreaming of a white Christmas, but local residents are being urged to think green over the festive period and really hit the right note.

Christmas and New Year traditionally herald a rise in the amount of waste food and packaging thrown away and the Council is keen that as much of this 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."

For residents who receive a collection on a Friday, on Christmas Day (25 December) and New Year's Day (1 January), refuse and recycling collections will be running two days later on the Sunday. Collections on all other days will be on their usual day.

Normal collection day
Thursday 24 Dec
Friday 25 Dec
Monday 28 Dec
Tuesday 29 Dec
Wednesday 30 Dec
Thursday 31 Dec
Friday 1 Jan

Festive period collection day
Thursday 24 Dec (stays the same)
Sunday 27 Dec
Monday 28 Dec (stays the same)
Tuesday 29 Dec (stays the same)
Wednesday 30 Dec (stays the same)
Thursday 31 Dec (stays the same)
Sunday 3 Jan

Normal collection days will resume on Monday 4 January 2016. Please ensure your bins and food caddies are presented for collection by 7am on the relevant collection day. See page 9 for details of forthcoming changes to waste and recycling arrangements.

Maureen added, "We are also encouraging residents to recycle their Christmas trees. Our recycling sites will be accepting trees from 4 January. If anyone wants to recycle their Christmas tree but cannot take it to one of our tree recycling points, they can call the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 4510, who will arrange for the tree to be picked up for recycling from 19 January 2016." (See right for more details)

Food for thought

Festive feasts are traditional at this time of year, but how much do you know about the food on your table?

Sustainable food production is a hot topic for the Council, with work beginning on a plan to help our communities grow vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers.

There will be an opportunity for all those interested to get involved in the preparation of our new Food Growing Strategy in 2016.

If you would like to be kept informed, e-mail the Council's Sustainability Policy Team - sustainability@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

There will be changes to service opening hours - including Community Hubs and other public facilities - over Christmas and New Year.

Full details are available on the Council website - www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

The latest information on opening hours and services is also available via the Council's Twitter account - @EDCouncil - and at www.facebook.com/edunbartonshirecouncil

If you need to get in touch with the Council, please call 0300 123 4510.

ready for winter?

Eat, drink and be merry... but don't overdo it

Ill health is unwelcome at any time of year but particularly over the holiday season.

NHS Scotland is urging people to ensure health doesn't drop off the to-do list over Christmas and New Year.

It advises:

- Know when your GP surgery will be open over the holidays, as this will be different from the normal opening hours
- Know who to turn to for help and advice if you're ill when your GP surgery isn't open
- Check your repeat prescriptions – order only what you need and pick it up in plenty of time so you don't run out over the holidays
- Ask your pharmacist what basic over-the-counter remedies you should have in your medicine cabinet at home.

Meanwhile, Police Scotland offers advice on staying safe when you're shopping, at home, enjoying the festivities and online. Visit www.scotland.police.uk

For more information on staying safe this winter, visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk, www.scotland.police.uk, www.nhsinform.co.uk/winter and www.firescotland.gov.uk

Drop a glass size

More than 100 licensed premises across East Dunbartonshire are among the first in Scotland trialling an important new initiative.

Local bars, restaurants and hotels are offering customers a wider choice when they are ordering a glass of wine - including smaller 125ml measures.

The initiative has been launched by the Scottish Government Alcohol Industry Partnership.

At Home

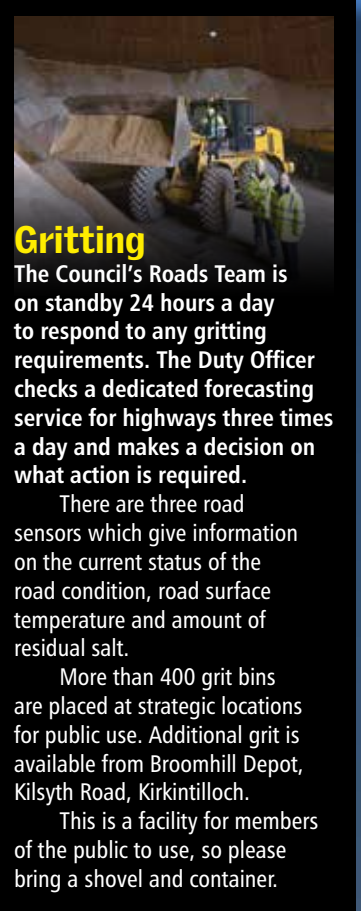
- In the event of an emergency, the Council repairs service is available to tenants 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year - freephone 0300 123 4510. If you're not a Council tenant, it's a good idea to have a telephone number for a plumber and electrician to hand.
- Prepare a home emergency kit, including: 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 SP Energy Networks on 0800 092 9290. For more information, visit spenergynetworks.co.uk.
- 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.

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.

If not:

- Check 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.



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.

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 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 36 tonnes of Christmas trees for recycling. From 5-18 January 2016 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 Services Contact Centre on 0300 123 4510 and they will arrange for it to be picked up week commencing 18 January 2016.

"Don't forget to recycle your Christmas cards too – these can be placed in the blue bin with paper and card."

For more information
Visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Allan Campbell

Allan has apprentice power

A bright spark has been recognised for outstanding performance at work.

Former Bishopbriggs Academy pupil Allan Campbell secured runner-up in the APSE Housing and Building Maintenance Apprentice of the Year Awards 2015.

The budding electrician - in the first year of a four-year apprenticeship with East Dunbartonshire Council - always wanted a career in the building industry.

He said, "I felt an apprenticeship would be the best route for me. The chance to learn on the job whilst getting paid appealed to me.

"It was a great experience going to the awards event and I was really pleased to be runner-up against UK-wide competition."

As well as working on property-maintenance projects, Allan is studying towards an electrical-installation qualification.



It's all 'GO' for winning team

The team are pictured with Ian Black, Director of Finance & Shared Services, and Kirsty Chisholm, Corporate Procurement Manager

A trailblazing team has been praised after helping East Dunbartonshire to lead the way.

The Council's Procurement Team was named 'Team of the Year' at the Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards.

The 14-strong team was recognised at the event, which

honours organisations whose initiatives are pioneering. Success is measured through internal and external assessment.

East Dunbartonshire achieved the highest percentage increase in performance across all 32 local authorities in Scotland.

Ian Black, the Council's Director of Finance and Shared

Services, said, "The challenging targets were not only achieved, but exceeded thanks to the hard work and dedication of the team.

"It is an excellent boost to them and the Council to be recognised at these awards and I'd like to congratulate them."



East Dunbartonshire at your fingertips



East Dunbartonshire Council's new-look website is now fully up and running - with a cleaner, simpler approach to how information is published online.

Customers can now see the most popular online items or 'Top Tasks' at a glance from the homepage.

More people than ever are accessing the Internet using tablets and mobile phones, and the new website has been designed to ensure you can find what you're looking for - whether you're using a mobile device or a desktop computer.

Content on the site has been simply structured into information for residents, businesses and visitors to East Dunbartonshire - with a further section containing information about the Council, Councillors, structure and committees.

A wide range of Council services can be accessed online 24 hours a day, seven days a

week and more online services, including a secure login to allow you to easily access services online using the Scottish Government's MyAccount facility, are planned for the coming months.

Steven Wright, ICT Project Leader, said, "The new website has been designed to be easy to use, with the most popular services easily accessible. It is also easier to look for information without having to understand how the Council is structured or the name of the team that delivers a service.

"By designing the new website to be effective on mobile devices as well we are making sure that people really can engage with us online at a time and place that suits them, any day of the week."

Visit the website - www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk - to see the new look for yourselves.

You can check out the Council's Twitter feed on the home page for the latest news updates.

Eco-friendly school boilers are top class



Innovative new biomass boilers have been installed in six schools across East Dunbartonshire - helping to benefit the public purse and the environment.

The Council commissioned new eco-friendly boilers for Castlehill Primary, Clober Primary, Lenzie Academy, Boclair Academy, Gartconner Primary and Oxbang Primary.

It is estimated that revenue savings will be generated annually for the next 20 years.

In addition, changing heating systems from fossil fuels to low carbon heating systems is better for the environment.

The project is part of the Council's Transformation Programme - which aims to ensure the authority continues to deliver efficient, high-quality services despite ongoing budgetary challenges.

For more information Visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

The Council is making it easier for people to register births, deaths and marriages.

We are now able to offer a registration appointment facility, as well as a drop-in service at our Hubs and registration office.

Customers can now make appointments in advance - at a time that suits them - to register a birth or death, or to discuss and complete marriage or civil partnership paperwork.

Registrar Christine Wilkie said, "We deal with people at busy and difficult times in their life, when they have lost a loved one or are dealing with a new baby. We want to make things as easy as we can for them, so have introduced a flexible appointment system."

"I hope customers find these changes helpful and that the new appointment system will be more convenient for those who use it."

To book an appointment and to know what to bring:

- Call Customer Services on 0300 123 4510 - Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm
- Drop into any of the Community Hubs to arrange an appointment
New mum Dalia Elkhazrij and

New appointment system makes registration easier

her partner Kamal Alamiry, from London, were taken by surprise when visiting relatives in East Dunbartonshire – with the early arrival of baby Adam.

Dalia said: "We did not expect our son to be born in Scotland, but we're pleased all is well. We found the Council's new appointment system very easy and convenient, as it's not easy getting out with a new baby."

Soon the Council will also be offering appointments for Blue Badges and in the future customers will be able to book these appointments online.

If you need to change or cancel your appointment, contact us on 0300 123 4510.

Further information, including opening times, is available on the website - www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk.



Lennoxtown residents flocked to a special event in October to find out more about the services which will be on offer when the new Community Hub opens early in 2016.

Work is nearly complete on the £5.29m Hub, which will bring together Council, library, leisure and cultural services under one roof.

There will also be healthcare services - including GP surgeries - in conjunction with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

A special drop-in awareness event was held at Campsie Memorial Hall where people were able to chat to Council officers, representatives from the NHS and East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust, and access information on the variety of services and facilities which will be available.

Marion Donnachie, from Lennoxtown, was one of a number of residents who attended the event, which included activities for children and families, a Tablets Tips for Beginners session, 3D printing and a Relaxing Reads session.

Marion said, "I'm a member of the local history group so I'm

Lennoxtown Community Hub info session success



really interested to see what will be on offer in the new Community Hub when it opens and what facilities will be available.

"Coming along to the session has been really useful. I use the library regularly so I will definitely be visiting the Hub when it opens."

The new community facility will be located within the heart of Lennoxtown and is set to open in February 2016.

- A range of Council and Trust services will be provided, including:**
- Payment kiosks - accepting cash, cheque 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 taking photos)
- Registration of births and deaths, and other services such as copying certificates
- Private meeting rooms for confidential business.



The Lennoxtown Community Hub event was a great success

Changes to waste and recycling collection days

January will bring important changes to your waste collections, as the Council aims to make savings.

The Council's budget continues to shrink, with further savings needed in the coming years and, as a result, all services are being reviewed to see how they can be even more efficient.

From 24 January, the Council will collect waste and recycling seven days a week rather than just Monday to Friday.

Grace Irvine, Director of Neighbourhood Services, said, "This means your collection day is likely to change. You should also be aware that your food waste may now be collected on a different day from your recycling or general waste."

"Our waste services team is now finalising the new routes that will operate over the seven days and you will be given a new calendar in January."

"Your calendar will give your fortnightly collection day for waste and recycling, and your weekly collection day for food waste."

Thank you for your support as we introduce these changes."

Information will also be available on our website - www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

If you have any questions about the new arrangements when you receive your new calendar you can contact Customer Services on 0300 123 4510.

East Dunbartonshire Council is committed to delivering high-quality, effective and efficient services for local residents, businesses and organisations.

Part of that commitment involves developing new services and approaches - against a backdrop of ongoing budgetary pressures - to ensure we continue to deliver the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire.

Included on these pages are some examples of the innovative work taking place throughout the Council.

Your customer services are available:

@ www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

☎ 0300 123 4510

📍 Community Hubs

Welcome windfall for local charities



Cheque it out - charities and good causes celebrate the Business Awards boost

Generous businesses and entrepreneurs have helped good causes at the heart of communities in East Dunbartonshire.

Over £8,500 was raised at the 2015 East Dunbartonshire Business Awards final thanks to inspirational individuals, organisations and enterprises who contributed to the raffle and auction.

The fantastic sum has now been split between a variety of good causes helping communities across East Dunbartonshire.

The charities who each received £800 were East

Dunbartonshire Association for Mental Health, Friends of Kelvinbank, Bearsden Caledonian Awards, Hillhead Forum Youth Club, Twechar Community Action, Fresh Start East Dunbartonshire, Friends of Instrumental Music in East Dunbartonshire Schools, GRACE Recovery Walk, Kirkintilloch Men's Shed and Thomas Muir 250 Anniversary Events.

In addition, there was a donation to Deafblind Scotland (Field of Dreams).

The final of the East Dunbartonshire Business Awards 2015 was held on 29 May at The Eagle Lodge, Bishopbriggs, and a

key part of the evening was the raising of funds for a variety of charities and organisations.

Lesley Tyler, Chair of Friends of Instrumental Music in East Dunbartonshire Schools (FIMEDS), said, "This year we were unsuccessful in a couple of funding bids and while we will be putting in applications to alternative funders, we were not certain of having sufficient funds - especially for the Jazz Orchestra. Receiving the cheque for £800 gave us enough to remove those worries and ensure its continuance.

"Once again, thank-you to all involved in this donation. It was

hugely appreciated and will be put to good use!"

Meanwhile, Sandra Sutton - Chairperson at Twechar Community Action - said, "We were delighted to receive the grant and it has gone towards developing another lunch club for the over-50s in the Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre and will also help develop our volunteer meal delivery service for the elderly within Twechar."

** The East Dunbartonshire Business Awards will return in 2016. For more information visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk*

Masterplan leads the way in Kirkintilloch

A pioneering plan to revitalise Kirkintilloch town centre is good news for shoppers, residents, traders and the local economy.

That's the view of prominent local business leaders who are urging people to find out more about the Masterplan and the road ahead.

Entrepreneur Meeki Singh is one of the Kirkintilloch Town Centre Champions - a group set up to support and influence plans for the town.

He said, "I honestly believe we are going in the right direction with the Masterplan. Short term there is upheaval, but long term I think it will make Kirkintilloch better off.

"An example is the work carried out at Cowgate. Granted there is still work to be done, but in my nearly 20 years of being there, the place hasn't looked better.

"In my opinion we should embrace the changes in order to enhance our town with a fresh, new look which is vibrant and welcoming - maybe even different."

A range of improvements have already been delivered in the town centre - including Barleybank, West High Street, Townhead and Broadcroft.

Peter Di Ciacca, Kirkintilloch Champion and local business owner, said, "I fully support the



An artist's impression of the new-look Cowgate

Council's initiatives and planned improvements to regenerate Kirkintilloch.

"The proposals for Catherine Street have attracted a lot of attention, but these are just one element of a much wider plan. It should be looked at in the context of the overall regeneration of the town centre.

"The ethos of these schemes can work very well and I look forward to seeing the rejuvenated Cowgate when the works are complete."

Fellow Champion Gerry McGarry added, "The regeneration of the town centre through the Masterplan can already be seen in the improvements made to the

Barleybank car park area with the new civic space, restaurant and housing transforming the centre of Kirkintilloch."

The final details have been agreed for the Cowgate public realm project - a key part of Kirkintilloch Town Centre Masterplan - following extensive consultation with residents, community groups, businesses, charities and stakeholders.

It is anticipated works will begin in early 2016 and will be focused initially around the canal bridge/St Mary's area.

For more information
Visit www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

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.mcnair@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 at the Headquarters in Kirkintilloch to observe what goes on and hear their local Councillor.

Visit the website www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk for information on the next Council meetings.

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 9 January) and to relive the magic of Scotland in the Commonwealth Games (from 5 March).

The Lillie Art Gallery will host the 'Connections: Scotland and Italy' exhibition (from 9 January), while The Embroiderers' Guild 'Sparkling at Sixty' celebration is on from 27 February.

There's a chance to delve into the past with an advanced family history course at William Patrick Library - beginning 26 January - and a full programme for Local History Week from 5 to 12 March.

Milngavie Town Hall will be travelling back to the time of World War I for a special event on

13 February, including costumes, stories from the archives, artefacts and more.

The day before, on February 12, author and dramatist Ajay Close will be in Lennoxton to celebrate the opening of the new library.

If you've got a whizzkid at home then don't miss events in Bishopbriggs and William Patrick Libraries in February which will explore 3D modelling and the computer game Minecraft. Youngsters can also explore website coding at a workshop at Lennoxton Library on 24 February.

For adults there will be opportunities to learn about digital devices and get creative at local libraries throughout January and March.

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



Local History Week from 5 to 12 March



Scottish Photographic Circle



Get Creative



Connections: Scotland and Italy

Visit www.edlc.co.uk and www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk for more information

Making care mean more in Bearsden

Last chance to secure a luxury suite in Antonine House care home

LIMITED AVAILABILITY



Antonine House Suite



Antonine House

This luxury home is one of our newest and provides a wide range of high quality care, with state of the art facilities.



Rooftop Terrace

The final floor of luxury suites in Antonine House are now being opened. Services provided include:

- 24-hour nursing care for the elderly and those living with Dementia
- Fine cuisine served in nine dining rooms
- Easily accessible roof top terrace and landscaped garden
- Event and activities programme
- Reminiscence room
- Hairdressing and beauty salon
- Cinema room
- Private resident transport

Contact home manager Ms Bobby Dougan to arrange a visit on **0141 942 4644**.

To find out more information:
E-mail: info@meallmore.co.uk
Web: www.meallmore.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/meallmore



SCOTTISH CARE AWARD WINNERS 2014

Antonine House, 16 Roman Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 2SL